HRCBM SIX-MONTH NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION REPORT

THE PERSECUTION CONTINUES

Minority Communities Under Sustained Attack in Bangladesh

JANUARY – JUNE 2026

Violence. Persecution. Impunity.

A people targeted. A system that fails. A persecution that continues.

We document. We defend. We call for justice.

824	63	6*	6 MONTHS
INCIDENTS	DISTRICTS	CATEGORIES	DOCUMENTED

HRCBM

HUMAN RIGHTS CONGRESS FOR BANGLADESH MINORITIES (HRCBM)

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Content Advisory

This report contains photographic material and detailed accounts of human-rights violations, including violence, intimidation, property destruction, religious desecration, sexual violence, abduction, and suspicious deaths. Graphic post-mortem images and highly distressing visual materials have been intentionally excluded wherever possible to protect the dignity of victims and reduce unnecessary viewer distress.

The images included in this report are presented solely for documentation, accountability, and historical record, with respect for the dignity, privacy, and safety of victims, survivors, families, and affected communities.

1.0 Executive Summary

This report presents HRCBM's national documentation of human-rights violations affecting religious and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh during the period **January through June 2026**. Based on the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities' (HRCBM) six-month incident registry, the organization documented **824 incidents across 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions**. **Meherpur was the only district from which HRCBM did not identify or receive a sufficiently verified incident report for inclusion during the reporting period; this should not be interpreted as evidence that no incidents occurred there.** The documented violations include murders and mysterious deaths, kidnappings and physical assaults, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, attacks on minority-owned property, and blasphemy-related persecution.

The geographic breadth, frequency, and recurring nature of these incidents demonstrate that the insecurity facing Bangladesh's minority communities cannot reasonably be characterized as a collection of isolated local disputes or ordinary criminal acts. Similar patterns of violence and intimidation have been documented across rural and urban areas alike, affecting individuals and families, women and girls, religious institutions, minority-owned homes and businesses, ancestral land, and Indigenous communities.

The findings further demonstrate that, despite Bangladesh's political transition and changes in national administration, violence, intimidation, dispossession, and persecution affecting minority communities have continued with alarming consistency. The persistence of these patterns across successive governing periods indicates that the crisis is neither episodic nor attributable solely to a single political administration. Rather, it raises serious concerns regarding deeper and **long-standing structural failures** involving equal protection under the law, accountability, law-enforcement response, access to justice, and a climate of impunity.

Table 1. National Snapshot of Documented Violations (January–June 2026).

Category	Number of Incidents	District Where Incidents Were Documented
Murder & Mysterious Death	168	53
Kidnapping & Physical Assault	223	55
Sexual Violence / Rape / Gang Rape	41	31
Temple Attacks & Religious Vandalism	141	49
Property Attacks / Land Grabbing / Arson / Looting	234	57
Blasphemy-Related Incidents	17	14

Total Documented Incidents	**824**	**63 districts across all 8 divisions**

Note: The district count listed for each category represents the number of unique districts in which that specific type of incident was documented. The same district may therefore appear in multiple categories. These figures do not represent the geographic limits of HRCBM's monitoring activities. In total, HRCBM documented **824 incidents occurring across 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions**.

The breadth of the documented incidents demonstrates an exceptionally wide geographic pattern of insecurity and vulnerability affecting minority populations across Bangladesh. Property attacks, land grabbing, arson, and looting were documented in **57 districts**; kidnapping and physical assault in **55 districts**; murders and mysterious deaths in **53 districts**; and attacks on temples and religious institutions in **49 districts**. The national distribution of these violations underscores the need to examine them not merely as individual cases, but as part of a broader environment in which minority communities remain exposed to violence, intimidation, dispossession, and inadequate institutional protection.

The reported figure of **41 incidents involving sexual violence, rape, and gang rape must be understood as a verified minimum and is particularly likely to represent a substantial undercount of the actual scale of such violence**. Documenting sexual violence in Bangladesh remains exceptionally difficult due to severe social stigma and taboo, fear of retaliation and damage to family reputation, reluctance of victims and families to report cases, community pressure, and the risk of further victimization. HRCBM's documentation efforts are further constrained by the frequent lack of cooperation and access to information from police authorities and medical institutions, including hospitals, while many incidents involving minority victims also receive little or no media coverage. These barriers can make independent verification exceptionally difficult. Consequently, a significant number of incidents may never be formally recorded in police or hospital records, reported by the media, or brought to HRCBM's attention and documentation system. **The number presented in this report should therefore not be interpreted as an estimate of the true prevalence of sexual violence against minority women and girls, but only as the number of cases that HRCBM was able to identify and sufficiently corroborate during the reporting period. The actual number is believed to be considerably higher.**

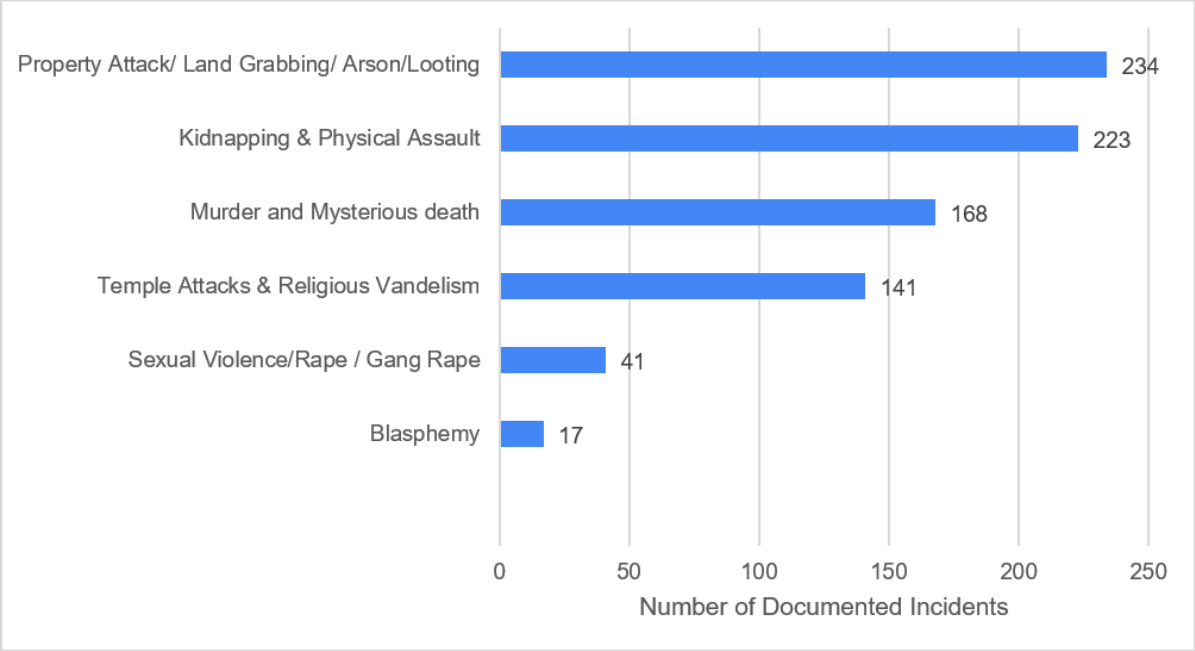


Figure 1. Distribution of Documented Violations (January - June 2026).

The cumulative consequences of these violations extend far beyond the immediate victims. Minority families face psychological trauma, loss of livelihoods, destruction or seizure of property, displacement pressure, social isolation, intimidation, and growing uncertainty regarding their long-term security and ability to remain in their ancestral communities. Particularly concerning are the continued attacks on Hindu temples and other religious institutions, violence and dispossession involving minority-owned land and homes, the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence, and recurring incidents affecting Indigenous and other marginalized communities.

This report builds upon HRCBM's earlier publication, "116 Minority Killings in 6 Months: Bangladesh's Crisis of Impunity," which documented lethal violence between June 2025 and January 2026. While that report focused primarily on killings, suspicious and custodial deaths, mob lynching, and impunity, the present report expands the analytical lens to examine the broader ecosystem of violence, persecution, dispossession, intimidation, and institutional vulnerability affecting minority populations during the first six months of 2026.

The findings presented herein are based on HRCBM's incident registries, documentation by field observers, accounts from victims and eyewitnesses, police information and interactions where available, local verification efforts, and open-source corroboration. HRCBM applies verification standards intended to ensure that incidents included in its documented totals can be linked to identifiable victims or affected communities, specific locations, and sufficiently corroborated circumstances.

Accordingly, all numerical figures in this report should be understood as verified minimums rather than a complete measure of the violations experienced by minority communities in Bangladesh. Fear of retaliation, social stigma, reluctance to approach law-enforcement authorities, lack of formal police reporting, limited media coverage, community intimidation, displacement, and barriers to accessing justice all contribute to underreporting. The true scale is therefore likely to be significantly greater, particularly in relation to rape and sexual violence, abductions and missing persons, land grabbing, threats and intimidation, coercive marriage or conversion concerns, and incidents in which vulnerable families are unwilling or unable to pursue formal complaints.

The persistence of these violations across **63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts** raises urgent questions regarding the State's capacity and willingness to ensure equal protection, uphold the rule of law, investigate crimes impartially, protect victims and witnesses, and hold perpetrators accountable regardless of political or social influence. Without meaningful institutional reform, credible accountability mechanisms, effective law-enforcement action, and sustained measures to protect vulnerable communities, the patterns documented in this report risk further entrenching communal insecurity, accelerating displacement from ancestral communities, and increasing the long-term risk of more serious and systematic violations against Bangladesh's religious and ethnic minorities.

Important Note on Underreporting and Verified Minimums

All numerical figures presented in this report represent **verified minimums** based on incidents for which identity, location, and surrounding circumstances could be independently corroborated through HRCBM's documentation process. Due to fear of retaliation, social stigma, inadequate police reporting, limited media coverage, community intimidation, and barriers to justice, the actual number of incidents is likely higher than reflected in this report. This is especially true in cases involving **sexual violence, abduction, missing persons, land grabbing, threats, coercive marriage or conversion concerns, and intimidation of minority families**.

1.1 Historical Context and Moral Imperative

For nearly eight decades, religious and ethnic minority communities in the geographic territory of present-day Bangladesh have endured recurring cycles of communal violence, killings, sexual violence, religious persecution, destruction and desecration of places of worship, land dispossession, looting, arson, forced displacement, economic coercion, and institutional abandonment. From the communal violence of 1946, through major

episodes in 1950, 1964, and 1971, and successive waves of persecution and communal attacks in 1989, 1990, 2001, 2004, 2012, 2015, 2021, 2024, 2025, and now 2026, the historical record reveals a deeply troubling continuity: **the vulnerability of minority communities has not been confined to a single period, government, political ideology, or form of violence, but has persisted across generations and successive political administrations.**

The forms of persecution have varied in scale and circumstance, but many of the underlying patterns have remained disturbingly familiar. Minority individuals have been killed or physically attacked; women and girls have been subjected to sexual and gender-based violence; temples and other religious institutions have been attacked or desecrated; families have faced land grabbing, destruction or seizure of property, extortion and economic pressure; and entire communities have experienced communal intimidation, mob violence, displacement pressure, and fear of further attacks. In many instances, the immediate act of violence has been compounded by inadequate investigation, weak accountability, political or local influence, and the inability of victims to obtain effective legal remedy.

This historical continuity raises a fundamental question concerning the relationship between minority citizens and the State. Governments, political parties, and administrative structures have changed repeatedly, yet minority communities have continued to report unequal experiences of protection, law enforcement, access to justice, and institutional responsiveness. The recurring failure of successive governments to provide effective and equal protection has allowed many of the structural conditions underlying minority vulnerability to remain unresolved.

Since 2006, the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) has pursued legal and institutional remedies through Bangladesh's courts and other accountability mechanisms, supporting or initiating a sustained series of legal interventions concerning killings, sexual violence, land dispossession, forced displacement, communal attacks, and other serious violations affecting minority communities. Yet across successive governments, meaningful justice has frequently remained elusive. Cases have reportedly faced delayed investigations, prolonged proceedings, inadequate prosecution, intimidation of victims and families, and other barriers to effective remedy. These recurring experiences raise serious concerns regarding political influence, selective enforcement, institutional weakness, and whether minority citizens receive equal protection of the law in practice.

The political upheaval beginning in 2024 and the subsequent period of interim governance did not bring an end to these long-standing patterns. HRCBM's documentation during 2025 and the first six months of 2026 continued to record killings and mysterious deaths, kidnappings and physical assaults, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, property attacks, blasphemy-related persecution, and broader forms of communal intimidation affecting minority individuals,

families, and communities. The persistence of such violations through political transition reinforces HRCBM's concern that the underlying drivers of minority insecurity extend beyond any single administration and require structural, institutional, and long-term remedies.

The present report must therefore be understood within this broader historical context. The **824 incidents documented between January and June 2026** represent a contemporary six-month snapshot of a much longer pattern of vulnerability. They do not encompass the totality of violations experienced by minority communities, nor do they suggest that the forms of persecution documented here are new. Rather, killings, physical violence, sexual violence, religious attacks, land dispossession, property destruction, communal intimidation, and barriers to justice documented during the present reporting period reflect patterns that have repeatedly appeared during earlier periods of Bangladesh's history.

Figure 2. Historical Timeline of Recurring Mass Atrocities Against Minority Communities in Bangladesh (1946–2026).

Note: This timeline presents major documented episodes of large-scale violence, persecution, dispossession, and displacement affecting minority communities in the geographic territory of present-day Bangladesh from 1946 through 2026. The forms of persecution have included killings, physical and sexual violence, attacks on religious institutions, destruction and seizure of property, land dispossession, looting, arson, communal intimidation, and forced or pressure-driven displacement. The recurrence of such violations across colonial, Pakistani, and post-independence Bangladeshi political periods provides essential historical context for understanding contemporary incidents and the persistence of structural vulnerability and impunity across generations.

When the historical timeline is considered alongside demographic trends and the contemporary evidence documented by HRCBM, the violations of 2025–2026 cannot be understood solely as isolated contemporary crimes. Rather, they form part of a much longer continuum of recurring violence, dispossession, religious persecution, displacement pressure, and institutional failure affecting minority communities. **The persistence, geographic reach, and cumulative consequences of these patterns**

warrant serious examination through the frameworks of atrocity prevention, international human-rights law, and, where the applicable legal elements and evidentiary thresholds are established, international criminal law.

1.2 Demographic Evidence of Structural Persecution

Demographic data spanning 1946 to 2020 reveals a stark and deeply troubling transformation. While the total population of the territory increased more than fourfold during this period, the proportion of minority communities — particularly Hindus and other non-Muslim populations — collapsed from approximately 30% in 1946 to less than 9% by 2020.

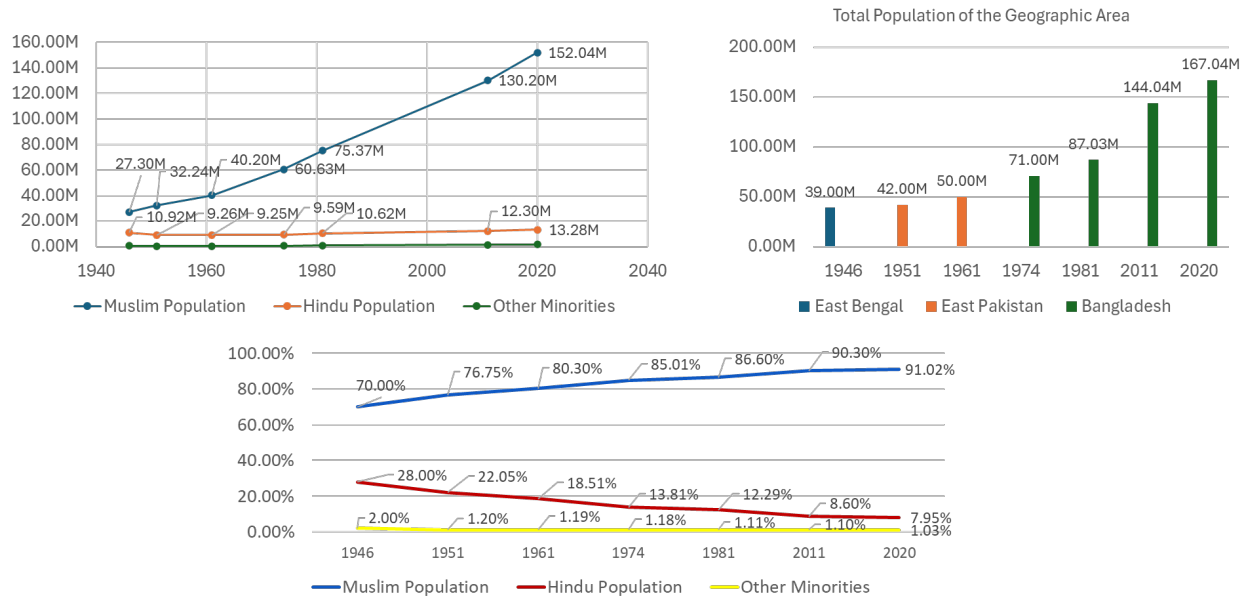


Figure 3. Demographic Transformation and Decline of Minority Populations in Bangladesh (1946–2020)

Note: *This figure illustrates the long-term demographic transformation of the population in the geographic territory of present-day Bangladesh from 1946 to 2020. While the total population of the territory increased more than fourfold over this period, the proportion of minority communities—particularly Hindus and other non-Muslim populations—declined precipitously from approximately 28% to 30% in 1946 to less than 9% by 2020 (please refer to red and yellow line in bottom graph). The persistent contraction of minority populations, occurring alongside recurrent episodes of communal violence, forced displacement, and systemic impunity, suggests that these changes cannot be explained by natural demographic trends alone but reflect sustained patterns of targeted persecution and structural exclusion.*

This decline cannot be explained by natural demographic variation alone without examining the broader historical context. When considered alongside decades of recurring communal violence, forced and pressure-driven displacement, land dispossession, attacks on religious institutions, economic insecurity, and persistent impunity, the demographic transformation raises grave concerns regarding sustained patterns of persecution, structural exclusion, and coercive displacement that have progressively eroded minority presence in Bangladesh. The violations documented in this report—including killings, physical and sexual violence, religious attacks, land and property dispossession, communal intimidation, and blasphemy-related persecution—must therefore be understood within the context of this longer-term demographic decline and the continuing insecurity experienced by minority communities.

1.3 What Happened

Between January and June 2026, the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) documented **824 incidents affecting religious and ethnic minority communities across 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions**.

The documented incidents include murders and mysterious deaths, physical assaults, kidnappings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, attacks on minority-owned property, and other forms of intimidation and communal persecution occurring in both rural and urban areas.

During the reporting period, HRCBM also documented **17 blasphemy-related incidents across 14 districts** involving allegations of religious insult or similar accusations affecting minority individuals and communities. Such allegations can carry consequences extending far beyond the individuals directly accused, including mob mobilization, threats, social intimidation, attacks on families or property, and heightened communal tensions. These cases raise particular concerns where allegations precede adequate investigation or where law-enforcement responses fail to protect those facing threats of collective or retaliatory violence.

The incidents documented during these six months demonstrate that insecurity affecting minority communities is neither geographically isolated nor confined to a particular region of Bangladesh. Similar forms of violence, intimidation, dispossession, and attacks on religious institutions were recorded across a substantial majority of the country's districts, indicating a geographically widespread pattern of vulnerability requiring sustained national attention.

This report draws upon HRCBM's incident registries, field-observer documentation, accounts from victims and eyewitnesses, police information and interactions where available, open-source evidence, media reporting where available, and local corroboration. The resulting documentation provides a broad civil-society record of reported and verified violations affecting minority communities during the first six months of 2026.

The continuation of these incidents despite political transition and changes in national administration raises serious concerns that the underlying conditions enabling violence, intimidation, discrimination, dispossession, inadequate protection, and impunity remain unresolved. The geographic reach and recurring nature of the documented violations underscore the need for effective investigation, accountability, equal protection under the law, and sustained institutional measures to protect Bangladesh's religious and ethnic minority communities.

1.4 Why It Matters

The scale, geographic reach, frequency, and recurring patterns documented in this report reveal a profound and continuing failure to ensure protection, accountability, and equal access to justice for Bangladesh's religious and ethnic minority communities. **Eight hundred and twenty-four documented incidents across 63 of the country's 64 districts within six months cannot be viewed solely as a succession of disconnected local events.** Taken together, they reveal an environment in which violence, intimidation, dispossession, attacks on religious institutions, sexual violence, and other forms of persecution can recur across broad geographic areas while victims and affected communities frequently struggle to obtain effective protection or meaningful legal remedy.

Delayed or absent First Information Reports (FIRs), inadequate investigations, intimidation of victims and their families, pressure to refrain from pursuing legal remedies, limited access to information, and weak or absent prosecution of perpetrators contribute to a climate of persistent impunity. Where perpetrators reasonably believe that violence against minority communities will carry few consequences, impunity itself becomes a driver of further abuse. The result extends far beyond individual crimes: it erodes public confidence in State institutions, deepens communal fear, threatens livelihoods, increases pressure on families to abandon ancestral homes and property, and creates long-term uncertainty regarding the ability of minority populations to live safely and with dignity in their own country.

Particularly alarming is the continued targeting of religious institutions, minority-owned land and property, economically vulnerable families, women and girls, and individuals subjected to blasphemy or religious-insult allegations. Such accusations—whether

ultimately substantiated, fabricated, manipulated, or insufficiently investigated—can expose minority individuals and entire families to mob mobilization, threats, social exclusion, retaliatory violence, and collective intimidation. The impact is therefore not confined to the immediate victim. Over time, repeated violence and the absence of credible accountability can produce psychological trauma, economic dispossession, demographic insecurity, displacement pressure, and the gradual erosion of minority presence from communities in which they have lived for generations.

Of equal concern is that these patterns have persisted **despite repeated efforts by HRCBM to bring the deteriorating situation to the attention of national and international institutions**. HRCBM has communicated documented incidents and urgent appeals to **United Nations** mechanisms and representatives, engaged diplomatic missions and foreign governments, submitted information and requests concerning accountability to international mechanisms, including the **Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**, and supported or initiated a series of legal proceedings and interventions within Bangladesh. Yet these sustained efforts have not been accompanied by a commensurate reduction in violence or by a sufficiently visible, coordinated, and effective protection response capable of deterring further attacks.

The continuing gap between documentation and effective action is itself a matter of serious concern. International institutions, diplomatic missions, national authorities, political leadership, civil society, and community institutions each possess different capacities and mandates; nevertheless, the cumulative international and domestic response has thus far been insufficient to generate sustained accountability or effective deterrence. Repeated expressions of concern, when not accompanied by meaningful follow-up, monitoring, diplomatic engagement, institutional reform, prosecution of perpetrators, and protection of victims and witnesses, risk allowing a cycle in which each new incident is documented while the structural conditions enabling the next incident remain largely unchanged.

HRCBM is also deeply concerned by circumstances in which minority religious leaders, advocates, or individuals engaged in the defense of religious and community rights become subject to prolonged criminal proceedings or detention. The continuing legal proceedings involving religious leader **Chinmoy Krishna Das**, who emerged prominently in the advocacy of minority rights, have generated serious concerns within minority communities regarding due process, prolonged detention, and the potential use of criminal-law mechanisms in politically and communally sensitive contexts. Such cases require transparent, independent, and impartial judicial scrutiny, full respect for the

presumption of innocence, access to counsel, timely judicial review, and protection against the selective or retaliatory application of law.

These concerns acquire additional significance when viewed against Bangladesh's obligations under international human-rights law. Many of the acts documented in this report engage fundamental protections concerning the **right to life; liberty and security of person; equality before the law; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; protection from discrimination; and the rights of religious and ethnic minorities**. Persistent failure to prevent foreseeable violence, investigate serious crimes effectively, prosecute responsible perpetrators, or provide meaningful remedies to victims raises substantial questions regarding the State's compliance with its obligations under international human-rights instruments to which Bangladesh is a party.

At the gravest level, the cumulative patterns documented by HRCBM also warrant continued assessment through the framework of international criminal law. HRCBM does not suggest that every incident documented in this report independently constitutes an international crime. However, allegations involving killings, severe physical violence, sexual violence, religious persecution, forcible displacement, or other serious deprivations of fundamental rights may require examination under **Article 7 of the Rome Statute** where evidence demonstrates that qualifying acts were committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population and the other legal elements are established. Likewise, conduct directed against a protected religious or ethnic group may require examination under **Article 6** where evidence establishes the specific intent required by the Rome Statute to destroy the protected group, in whole or in part.

The significance of this report therefore lies not only in the number of incidents recorded, but in the **pattern they collectively reveal and the consequences of continued institutional inaction**. The recurrence of violence across 63 districts, despite repeated documentation, national litigation, international advocacy, and changes in political administration, raises an urgent question: **how many more documented attacks, deaths, assaults, destroyed temples, dispossessed families, and traumatized victims will be required before prevention and accountability become more than stated commitments?**

Without effective State protection, impartial investigation, credible prosecution, judicial independence, sustained international engagement, and meaningful pressure for accountability, the cycle of violence and impunity risks becoming further entrenched. The consequences extend beyond Bangladesh's minority communities. They affect the rule of law, democratic stability, social cohesion, religious freedom, and the credibility of national and international institutions entrusted with protecting fundamental human rights.

HRCBM therefore calls upon United Nations, the international community, diplomatic missions, international human-rights institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to engaging with and supporting the implementation of HRCBM's proposed **transitional justice framework for Bangladesh**. The objective of such a process should be not only to document past and continuing violations, but to establish credible mechanisms for truth, accountability, justice for victims, institutional reform, protection of vulnerable communities, and guarantees of non-recurrence. After years of recurring violence and persistent impunity, documentation alone is no longer sufficient. A structured, victim-centered process capable of addressing both individual violations and the institutional conditions that allow them to continue should now become a matter of serious national and international consideration.

The central concern presented by this report is therefore not simply that 824 incidents occurred within six months. It is that, despite repeated warnings, documentation, advocacy, and legal intervention, the conditions that allow such violations to recur appear to remain substantially unresolved.

1.5 What Is New in This Report

This report presents a comprehensive civil-society documentation of continuing human-rights violations affecting religious and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh during the defined reporting period of **January through June 2026**.

Unlike conventional incident reporting or fragmented media coverage, this report is based on a manually curated, incident-level national registry documenting **824 verified incidents across 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions**. The registry was developed through field investigations, direct communication with affected communities, victim and family testimony, interactions with police authorities where possible, local verification, open-source corroboration, media review where available, and structured assessment of individual incident records.

The report goes beyond documenting killings alone. It examines the wider ecosystem of violence, intimidation, dispossession, religious persecution, sexual violence, communal targeting, and institutional failure affecting minority populations across Bangladesh.

The report includes:

- **A national incident registry** documenting murders and mysterious deaths, physical assaults, kidnappings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, property attacks,

blasphemy-related incidents, and other forms of communal persecution and intimidation;

- **Geospatial mapping and descriptive statistical analysis** identifying district-level distribution, geographic concentrations, recurring hotspots, and patterns in the types and locations of documented violations;
- **A structured typology of persecution** categorizing dominant forms of abuse, recurring triggers, patterns of communal targeting, and institutional response failures;
- **Indicators of impunity and institutional response**, including delayed or absent FIRs, inadequate investigations, intimidation or pressure affecting victims and families, arrest outcomes where documented, failures of protection, and prolonged case stagnation;
- **Representative case studies** illustrating recurring patterns of communal vulnerability, institutional failure, barriers to justice, and the human consequences of continuing persecution;
- **Analysis of underreported forms of abuse**, particularly sexual violence, rape, gang rape, abduction, missing persons, land dispossession, threats, coercive marriage or conversion concerns, and other violations that may remain hidden because of social stigma, fear of retaliation, limited police or institutional cooperation, inadequate media reporting, and barriers to independent verification;
- **An assessment of relevant national and international legal and human-rights frameworks**, including concerns arising under fundamental human-rights protections and, where the applicable legal thresholds may be met, questions warranting examination under international criminal law; and
- **A detailed casebook annex** documenting incident summaries, victim information where available and appropriate, geographic location, incident classification, and available verification information.

Together, these elements move the analysis beyond a collection of individual incidents and provide an evidence-based national assessment of recurring violence, structural vulnerability, patterns of impunity, and institutional failures affecting minority communities in Bangladesh.

A further distinguishing feature of this report is its effort to connect documentation with **prevention, accountability, and long-term institutional reform**. The findings are intended not only to record violations after they occur, but also to identify recurring patterns that may serve as early-warning indicators of escalating communal insecurity, displacement pressure, demographic vulnerability, and the progressive erosion of minority safety, dignity, and continued presence in affected communities. In this respect, the report should be understood not merely as an incident compilation, but as an evolving evidence base for national and international engagement, accountability efforts, protection measures, and consideration of longer-term approaches—including HRCBM's proposed transitional justice framework—to address both continuing violations and the structural

conditions that allow them to recur.

1.6 What the Evidence Establishes vs. What HRCBM Alleges and Assesses

What the Evidence Establishes

The incidents documented in this report are supported by structured and cross-verified evidence obtained through multiple independent sources wherever possible. These sources include field observer reports, direct communication with victims and family members, local community verification, corroborated media reporting, photographic or video documentation, police interactions, and official records where available.

HRCBM applied a multi-source verification methodology designed to improve evidentiary reliability, transparency, and consistency across incident documentation. Each incident entry was reviewed according to the available supporting evidence, and the strength and availability of corroborating evidence were assessed where appropriate to distinguish highly corroborated cases from incidents where verification remained partially constrained by access limitations, fear of retaliation, institutional non-cooperation, or security concerns. The report documents a broad spectrum of violations affecting minority communities, including killings, mysterious deaths, physical assaults, kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, mob intimidation, and blasphemy-related persecution.

What HRCBM Alleges and Assesses

Based on the compiled evidence, HRCBM identifies recurring and systemic patterns of delayed investigations, reluctance or failure to register First Information Reports (FIRs), weak law-enforcement response, intimidation of victims' families, limited prosecutorial action, and broader institutional failures affecting the protection of minority communities.

The report further identifies recurring characteristics of communal targeting, vulnerability linked to religious identity, and patterns of impunity that appear repeatedly across multiple districts and incident categories. Under the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (CrPC), law-enforcement authorities possess clear statutory obligations in cases involving cognizable offences and serious violence.

- Section 154 of the CrPC requires that when information relating to a cognizable offence is received, the officer-in-charge of a police station shall reduce the information to writing and register it as an FIR.
- Section 156(1) authorizes police to investigate cognizable offences without prior order from a Magistrate once information has been received.
- Section 157 sets out the procedure to be followed where an officer in charge of a police station has reason to suspect the commission of an offence that the officer is

empowered to investigate, including requirements concerning reporting and investigation, subject to the provisions and exceptions contained in the section.

In several documented incidents, victims' families, local witnesses, and community members reported delays in FIR registration, reluctance to initiate investigation promptly, pressure to avoid legal proceedings, or limited visible progress in investigation and prosecution. In some cases, police reportedly cited procedural or evidentiary limitations despite the existence of substantial allegations of violence or communal targeting.

If substantiated through formal legal review, such practices may be inconsistent with the due-diligence obligations of state authorities to prevent, investigate, and respond effectively to serious violence and human-rights violations affecting vulnerable populations. Taken together, the patterns documented in this report support HRCBM's allegation that minority communities in Bangladesh continue to face structural vulnerabilities compounded by institutional weaknesses and persistent impunity. These findings are grounded in documented evidence but are presented as allegations and analytical assessments intended for legal, institutional, policy, and international human-rights review.

This report does not claim judicial authority. Rather, it seeks to contribute to evidence-based documentation, accountability discussions, and informed examination of continuing human-rights concerns affecting minority communities in Bangladesh.

1.7 Human Impact

Behind each statistic documented in this report lies a devastated family, a traumatized community, and a deepening sense of insecurity among already vulnerable populations. Families affected by killings, assaults, sexual violence, land dispossession, arson, communal attacks, and other forms of persecution frequently suffer consequences extending far beyond the immediate incident itself. Parents have lost children, children have become orphans, women and girls have faced fear, trauma, and social stigma following sexual violence or harassment, and in many cases the affected individual was the primary income earner of the household, plunging entire families into sudden economic crisis.

In many cases, the consequences are not confined to a single victim or household. **Blasphemy-related allegations, communal mobilization, land grabbing, and other forms of intimidation or economic coercion—including extortion where reported—can place entire families and, in some instances, whole neighborhoods or villages at risk**. A single accusation or dispute may trigger mob hostility, destruction or looting of homes and businesses, attacks on places of worship, loss of livelihoods, social ostracism, and pressure on families to flee. In such circumstances, the harm becomes collective: people who were not themselves accused or directly involved may nevertheless lose their homes, property, businesses, religious institutions, personal security, and sense of belonging.

Blasphemy-related incidents are particularly concerning because their consequences can escalate rapidly beyond the individual against whom an allegation is made. Whether an accusation is substantiated, fabricated, manipulated, or insufficiently investigated, the resulting hostility can expose family members and surrounding minority communities to collective intimidation, retaliatory attacks, property destruction, and displacement pressure. The devastation may therefore continue long after the immediate violence has ended, leaving affected families and communities struggling to rebuild homes, livelihoods, social relationships, and a basic sense of safety.

Overnight, families may lose not only loved ones, but also their means of survival—including housing stability, agricultural land, business assets, food security, educational continuity for children, and access to basic medical care. Minority-owned homes, shops, agricultural property, and religious institutions damaged, seized, or destroyed through attacks and intimidation often represent generations of accumulated family security, economic investment, cultural identity, and connection to ancestral communities.

Widows, elderly parents, displaced families, and survivors are frequently left without meaningful or sustained institutional support, relying instead on relatives, local charity, or fragile community assistance networks. Survivors and witnesses in several documented incidents reportedly faced intimidation, social pressure, fear of retaliation, or economic vulnerability when attempting to seek justice or speak publicly about abuses. Where perpetrators remain unaccountable, victims may face the additional burden of continuing to live in proximity to those they believe were responsible for the violence against them.

The psychological impact is equally severe. Recurrent violence, rumors of impending attacks, blasphemy-related hostility, threats against religious institutions, land disputes accompanied by intimidation, and fear of future targeting contribute to communal anxiety and long-term trauma, particularly among children, women, elderly persons, and families that have already experienced previous attacks. In some affected areas, families have reported considering relocation or abandoning ancestral homes because they no longer believe that their safety, property, or livelihoods can be adequately protected.

The cumulative effect of these incidents therefore extends far beyond immediate physical injury or property loss. Repeated attacks can fracture entire communities, destroy economic independence, weaken social networks, disrupt children's education, accelerate displacement, deepen psychological trauma, and create a persistent perception that minority families can be targeted with limited consequences for perpetrators. Over time, these pressures contribute to broader social fragmentation, economic destabilization, demographic insecurity, and the gradual erosion of minority presence in communities where families may have lived for generations.

This report therefore documents not only individual incidents of violence, but also the **broader and often intergenerational human consequences of persecution, collective intimidation, institutional failure, and impunity**. The true impact cannot be measured

solely by the number of incidents recorded. It must also be understood through the families uprooted, livelihoods destroyed, communities traumatized, religious and cultural institutions damaged, and the growing number of minority citizens who are left questioning whether they and their children can continue to live safely, with dignity and equal rights, in their ancestral homeland.

2. Key Findings

The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) documented a significant and geographically widespread pattern of violence, intimidation, dispossession, and persecution affecting religious and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh during the reporting period from **January through June 2026**. Based on verified incident documentation, field investigations, accounts from victims and eyewitnesses, local human-rights observer reporting, media monitoring where available, and corroboration through multiple sources, HRCBM recorded **824 documented incidents across 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions** during the six-month reporting period.

The findings demonstrate that the documented violations were neither isolated nor confined to particular localities. Rather, the recurrence of similar forms of violence across a substantial majority of the country reveals persistent patterns involving killings and mysterious deaths, physical assaults and kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing and property attacks, arson and looting, blasphemy-related persecution, communal intimidation, and failures of institutional protection and accountability.

Taken together, these findings reveal a broader environment of insecurity in which minority individuals, families, religious institutions, and communities remain vulnerable to recurring violence and dispossession, while weaknesses in prevention, investigation, protection, and accountability continue to contribute to conditions in which such violations can recur.

2.1 Geographic Spread and Concentration

The documented incidents reveal a widespread and multidimensional pattern of violence, intimidation, dispossession, and other human-rights violations affecting religious and ethnic minority communities across Bangladesh during the **January–June 2026** reporting period. HRCBM documented incidents across **63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions**, demonstrating that the insecurity affecting minority

communities was neither confined to isolated local disputes nor limited to a small number of communal flashpoints.

The geographic distribution of documented incidents reflects recurring patterns involving:

- murders and mysterious deaths;
- kidnappings and physical assaults;
- rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- attacks on temples and religious institutions;
- property attacks, land grabbing, arson, and looting;
- blasphemy-related allegations and persecution; and
- broader forms of communal intimidation and pressure affecting minority individuals, families, and communities.

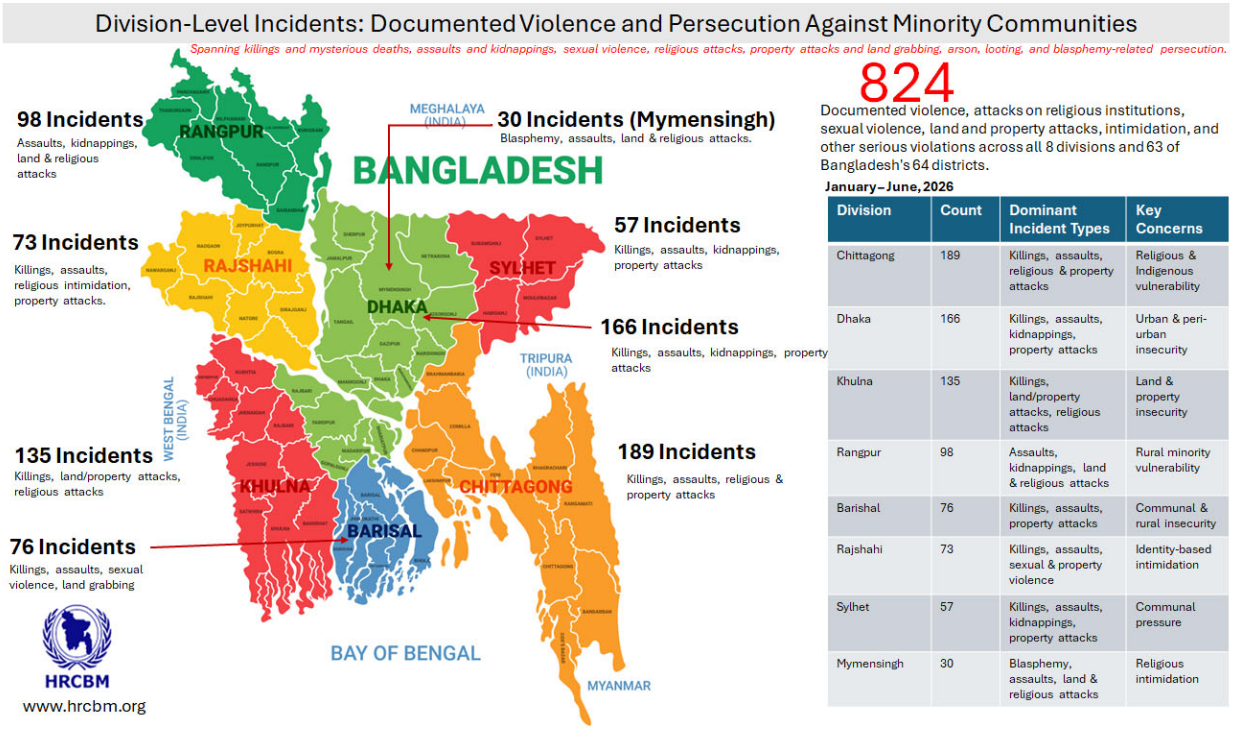
The figure below illustrates the division-level distribution of documented incidents affecting minority communities across Bangladesh.

The highest concentrations of documented incidents were recorded in:

- **Chittagong Division — 189 incidents;**
- **Dhaka Division — 166 incidents;**
- **Khulna Division — 135 incidents;** and
- **Rangpur Division — 98 incidents.**

These four divisions collectively accounted for the largest concentration of incident-level records documented by HRCBM during the six-month reporting period. Significant numbers of incidents were also documented in Barishal (76), Rajshahi (73), Sylhet (57), and Mymensingh (30) divisions.

The geographic patterns further demonstrate that minority insecurity affects communities across a wide range of social and geographic environments, including densely populated metropolitan and peri-urban areas as well as remote rural, border, and Indigenous-populated regions.


Division-Level Incidents: Documented Violence and Persecution Against Minority Communities
Spanning killings and mysterious deaths, assaults and kidnappings, sexual violence, religious attacks, property attacks and land grabbing, arson, looting, and blasphemy-related persecution.
824
Documented violence, attacks on religious institutions, sexual violence, land and property attacks, intimidation, and other serious violations across all 8 divisions and 63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts.
January–June, 2026
98 Incidents
Assaults, kidnappings, land & religious attacks
RANGPUR
MEGHALAYA (INDIA)
30 Incidents (Mymensingh)
Blasphemy, assaults, land & religious attacks.
BANGLADESH
73 Incidents
Killings, assaults, religious intimidation, property attacks.
RAJSHAHI
57 Incidents
Killings, assaults, kidnappings, property attacks
SYLHET
DHAKA
166 Incidents
Killings, assaults, kidnappings, property attacks
TRIPURA (INDIA)
WEST BENGAL (INDIA)
135 Incidents
Killings, land/property attacks, religious attacks
KHULNA
189 Incidents
Killings, assaults, religious & property attacks
CHITTAGONG
BARISAL
76 Incidents
Killings, assaults, sexual violence, land grabbing
BAY OF BENGAL
MYANMAR
HRCBM
www.hrcbm.org

Division	Count	Dominant Incident Types	Key Concerns
Chittagong	189	Killings, assaults, religious & property attacks	Religious & Indigenous vulnerability
Dhaka	166	Killings, assaults, kidnappings, property attacks	Urban & peri-urban insecurity
Khulna	135	Killings, land/property attacks, religious attacks	Land & property insecurity
Rangpur	98	Assaults, kidnappings, land & religious attacks	Rural minority vulnerability
Barishal	76	Killings, assaults, property attacks	Communal & rural insecurity
Rajshahi	73	Killings, assaults, sexual & property violence	Identity-based intimidation
Sylhet	57	Killings, assaults, kidnappings, property attacks	Communal pressure
Mymensingh	30	Blasphemy, assaults, land & religious attacks	Religious intimidation

Figure 4. Division-Level Distribution of Documented Violence and Other Human-Rights Violations Affecting Minority Communities (January–June 2026).

Documented incidents occurred across:

- urban centers;
- municipalities;
- villages and rural communities;
- border districts;
- educational institutions and campuses;
- minority-owned homes, businesses, and agricultural land; and
- temples and other religious institutions.

This geographic diversity indicates that vulnerability is not determined by a single type of location. Minority individuals and communities face differing forms of insecurity across urban, peri-urban, and rural environments.

Several significant regional patterns emerged from the documented incidents:

- **Chittagong (Chattogram) Division**, which recorded the highest overall number of incidents, demonstrated recurring patterns involving killings and mysterious deaths, assaults and kidnappings, property-related attacks, arson, attacks on religious institutions, sexual violence, and incidents affecting religious and Indigenous minority communities.

- **Dhaka Division** recorded substantial numbers of killings and mysterious deaths, missing-person and kidnapping cases, physical assaults, property-related attacks, intimidation, and other violations affecting minority populations across urban, peri-urban, and rural settings.
- **Khulna Division** demonstrated recurring patterns involving killings and mysterious deaths, kidnappings and missing persons, land and property-related disputes accompanied by violence or intimidation, robbery and arson, and attacks affecting religious institutions and minority communities.
- **Rangpur Division** recorded recurring incidents involving killings and mysterious deaths, physical assaults, kidnappings, land grabbing, arson, property-related intimidation, and attacks affecting religious institutions, highlighting the vulnerability of minority populations in predominantly rural areas.
- **Barishal Division** demonstrated patterns involving killings and mysterious deaths, physical assaults, sexual violence, land grabbing, attacks on religious institutions, and communal intimidation, including cases in which religious allegations or tensions reportedly heightened risks to minority individuals and families.
- **Rajshahi Division** recorded recurring incidents involving killings, assaults, sexual violence, land and property-related attacks, and religious or identity-based intimidation affecting minority communities.
- **Sylhet Division** continued to exhibit patterns involving killings and mysterious deaths, missing persons and kidnappings, assaults, arson, land and property-related incidents, and other forms of communal pressure and insecurity.
- **Mymensingh Division**, while recording the lowest overall number of documented incidents, nevertheless demonstrated serious patterns involving killings, blasphemy-related allegations, land grabbing, attacks and intimidation, and incidents involving religious desecration or communal provocation.

The recurrence of similar forms of violence and intimidation across geographically distant divisions undermines attempts to characterize the documented incidents as purely isolated or localized disturbances. Instead, the geographic distribution reveals persistent and geographically dispersed vulnerabilities affecting minority communities throughout Bangladesh.

Table 2. Division-Level Distribution and Recurring Patterns of Documented Incidents, January–June 2026.

Division	Documented Incidents	Recurring Documented Patterns	Key Concerns
Chittagong	**189**	Killings and mysterious deaths; assaults and kidnappings; property attacks and arson; religious-institution attacks; sexual violence	Highest overall incident count; religious and Indigenous minority vulnerability

Division	Documented Incidents	Recurring Documented Patterns	Key Concerns
Dhaka	**166**	Killings and mysterious deaths; kidnappings and assaults; property-related attacks; religious-institution attacks; intimidation	Urban, peri-urban, and rural minority insecurity
Khulna	**135**	Killings and mysterious deaths; kidnappings and assaults; land and property attacks; robbery and arson; religious-institution attacks	Property and land insecurity; recurring communal vulnerability
Rangpur	**98**	Killings and mysterious deaths; assaults and kidnappings; land grabbing; arson; religious-institution attacks	Rural minority vulnerability and property-related intimidation
Barishal	**76**	Killings and mysterious deaths; assaults; sexual violence; land grabbing; religious-institution attacks	Communal intimidation and rural insecurity
Rajshahi	**73**	Killings; assaults; sexual violence; land/property attacks; religious or identity-based intimidation	Property insecurity and recurring threats to minority communities
Sylhet	**57**	Killings and mysterious deaths; missing persons and kidnappings; assaults; arson; land/property incidents	Communal pressure and protection gaps
Mymensingh	**30**	Killings; blasphemy-related allegations; land grabbing; attacks and intimidation; religious desecration	Religious intimidation, blasphemy-related risks, and land insecurity
Total geographically documented incident records	**824**		**63 districts across all 8 divisions**

Note: *This table presents the division-level distribution of the **824 incidents documented by HRCBM during January–June 2026**, based on the geographic information recorded in the monthly category-level incident compilations. Incidents were documented across **63 of***

Bangladesh's 64 districts and all 8 administrative divisions. *The recurring patterns identified for each division summarize the principal forms of violations documented during the reporting period*.

2.2 Incident Typologies

The incidents documented by HRCBM during the **January–June 2026** reporting period reveal a multidimensional pattern of violence, persecution, intimidation, and dispossession affecting religious and ethnic minority communities across Bangladesh. The documented violations extend beyond isolated acts of physical violence and reflect broader patterns of communal intimidation, religious persecution, gender-based vulnerability, economic coercion, property insecurity, and inadequate institutional protection.

The diversity and recurrence of these incident types demonstrate that minority communities face not only episodic physical attacks, but also overlapping forms of psychological, social, religious, and economic pressure that can affect individual safety, family stability, community dignity, livelihoods, and the long-term continuity of minority communities in affected areas.

The principal incident typologies documented during the reporting period are summarized in Figure 5.

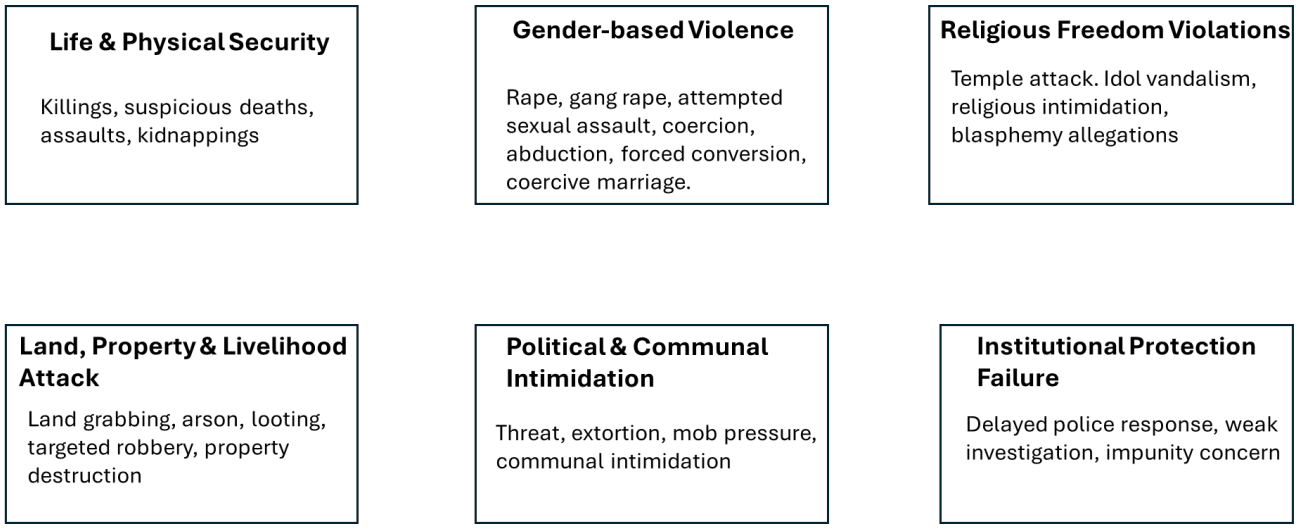

Life & Physical Security
Killings, suspicious deaths, assaults, kidnappings
Gender-based Violence
Rape, gang rape, attempted sexual assault, coercion, abduction, forced conversion, coercive marriage.
Religious Freedom Violations
Temple attack. Idol vandalism, religious intimidation, blasphemy allegations
Land, Property & Livelihood Attack
Land grabbing, arson, looting, targeted robbery, property destruction
Political & Communal Intimidation
Threat, extortion, mob pressure, communal intimidation
Institutional Protection Failure
Delayed police response, weak investigation, impunity concern

Figure 5. Typology of Documented Incidents by Human-Rights Impact (January–June 2026).

The documented incidents broadly affected six major areas of human-rights concern:

- life and physical security,
- gender-based violence and coercion,

- religious freedom,
- land, property, and livelihood security,
- political and communal intimidation,
- and institutional protection and access to justice.

2.2.1 Life and Physical Security

A substantial number of documented incidents involved:

- killings,
- suspicious deaths,
- physical assault,
- mob violence,
- abduction,
- kidnapping,
- and violent intimidation.

Several incidents reportedly occurred in public places, residential areas, marketplaces, educational institutions, and transportation routes, contributing to an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among minority populations.

The recurrence of physical violence across multiple divisions indicates persistent vulnerabilities affecting minority communities regardless of geographic location.

2.2.2 Gender-Based Violence and Coercion

HRCBM documented incidents involving:

- rape;
- gang rape;
- attempted sexual assault;
- sexual and gender-based coercion;
- gender-based intimidation;
- abduction; and
- allegations involving forced conversion or coercive marriage affecting minority women and girls.

Several incidents raised serious concerns regarding:

- bodily autonomy;
- child protection;
- freedom of religion or belief; and
- the protection of minority women and girls from sexual exploitation, coercion, and communal targeting.

Although the number of documented sexual-violence cases is lower than some other incident categories, **this should not be interpreted as indicating a lower prevalence of such violations**. Sexual violence remains particularly difficult to document because of severe social stigma and taboo, fear of retaliation, reluctance of victims and families to report abuse, limited media coverage, and difficulties obtaining cooperation or information from police authorities and medical institutions. The documented figures should therefore be understood as **verified minimums**, with the actual prevalence likely to be considerably higher.

These violations remain among the most severe documented because of their profound and often long-term physical, psychological, economic, familial, and social consequences for survivors.

2.2.3 Religious Freedom Violations

The reporting period included repeated incidents involving:

- attacks on temples and other religious institutions;
- idol vandalism and religious desecration;
- attacks or intimidation affecting religious gatherings;
- interference with religious practices or materials;
- communal intimidation; and
- blasphemy-related allegations or accusations of religious insult affecting minority individuals and communities.

The recurrence of attacks against temples, religious institutions, and sacred symbols across numerous districts demonstrates continuing vulnerability surrounding the protection of minority religious identity and freedom of religion or belief in Bangladesh.

Blasphemy-related allegations are of particular concern because their consequences can extend far beyond the individual accused. Such allegations—whether substantiated, fabricated, manipulated, or insufficiently investigated—may contribute to mob mobilization, threats, attacks on homes or businesses, social exclusion, collective intimidation, and heightened insecurity affecting entire families or surrounding minority communities.

Such incidents therefore result not only in physical destruction or individual harm, but can also produce profound psychological intimidation, communal fear, displacement pressure, and the erosion of minority communities' sense of security and belonging.

2.2.4 Land, Property, and Livelihood Attacks

HRCBM documented recurring incidents involving:

- land grabbing;
- attacks on minority-owned homes and property;
- robbery;
- arson;
- extortion;
- looting; and
- destruction or seizure of economically significant property and livelihood assets.

Several incidents reportedly involved threats, intimidation, or coercive pressure directed at minority families in connection with land and property disputes, including efforts to compel families to surrender land, abandon property claims, accept unfavorable settlements, or leave affected areas.

The consequences of such violations frequently extend beyond immediate property loss. For economically vulnerable families, the destruction or seizure of a home, agricultural land, business, livestock, or other livelihood assets can eliminate generations of accumulated economic security and create conditions of prolonged poverty, dependency, or displacement.

The documented patterns indicate that **economic coercion, land dispossession, and property-related intimidation remain significant drivers of minority insecurity**, particularly where perpetrators are able to exploit institutional weakness, political or local influence, or victims' limited ability to obtain timely legal protection.

2.2.5 Political and Communal Intimidation

The documented incidents also included:

- threats;
- extortion;
- communal pressure;
- public intimidation;
- organized harassment; and
- politically charged hostility or pressure directed at minority individuals, families, communities, and institutions.

Several incidents reportedly involved efforts to silence victims, discourage the filing or continuation of legal complaints, pressure families to abandon claims, or intimidate entire communities through threats, mob mobilization, social pressure, or other fear-based tactics.

In some cases, the perceived political or local influence of alleged perpetrators reportedly contributed to victims' reluctance to seek legal remedies or heightened fears regarding

retaliation. Communal intimidation can also extend beyond the immediate victim, creating broader insecurity among surrounding minority families who may perceive that similar violence or retaliation could be directed against them.

The recurrence of such intimidation across geographically dispersed districts indicates a persistent environment of social and institutional vulnerability affecting minority populations and their ability to exercise rights, seek justice, and live without fear of retaliation.

2.2.6 Institutional Protection Failures

Multiple documented incidents raised concerns regarding:

- delayed or inadequate police response;
- reluctance or delays in registering complaints or FIRs;
- inadequate or incomplete investigations;
- failures or delays in preserving and examining relevant evidence;
- failure to make timely arrests where legally warranted;
- insufficient protection for vulnerable victims and witnesses; and
- broader concerns regarding accountability and impunity.

In several cases, victims, families, witnesses, or local communities reportedly expressed frustration regarding inadequate investigative urgency, limited visible progress, or ineffective institutional responses following serious allegations of violence, intimidation, or communal targeting.

Where State institutions fail to respond promptly and impartially, the consequences extend beyond the individual case. The perception that perpetrators may act without meaningful consequences can discourage victims from reporting violations, weaken public confidence in law-enforcement and judicial institutions, and contribute to conditions in which further abuses become more likely.

The persistence of such concerns contributes to:

- fear and intimidation;
- underreporting;
- diminished trust in State institutions;
- reluctance to pursue legal remedies; and
- prolonged insecurity among minority communities.

2.2.7 Emerging Structural Patterns

Despite differences in incident type, geographic location, and political period, several recurring structural patterns emerge from the cases documented in this report and from HRCBM's broader historical documentation, including:

- identity-based targeting and vulnerability;
- political and communal intimidation;
- religious persecution and insecurity;
- gender-based violence and exploitation;
- economic coercion, land dispossession, and property insecurity;
- collective consequences arising from blasphemy-related allegations and communal mobilization; and
- recurring failures of institutional protection, accountability, and effective remedy.

The repetition of similar patterns across geographically distant districts and all eight administrative divisions makes it increasingly difficult to characterize the documented violations solely as unrelated criminal acts or isolated local disturbances. When considered alongside the historical record of recurring violence, sexual violence, religious persecution, dispossession, displacement, attacks on places of worship, and communal intimidation affecting minority communities across successive political periods, the contemporary incidents documented in this report point to deeper and long-standing structural vulnerabilities.

A central concern emerging from HRCBM's documentation is the apparent **failure of successive governments—past and present—to ensure that religious and ethnic minority communities receive the same degree of protection, institutional responsiveness, access to justice, and effective enforcement of law that should be available equally to all citizens**. Governments and political administrations have changed, yet minority victims and communities continue to report similar experiences: delayed or absent police action, difficulties registering complaints, inadequate investigations, political or local interference, intimidation following legal action, limited prosecution of perpetrators, and prolonged failure to obtain meaningful remedy.

The persistence of these patterns across changing administrations raises a fundamental concern regarding **equality before the law in practice**. Where minority communities repeatedly experience weaker protection, slower institutional response, greater barriers to justice, or lesser accountability for crimes committed against them, the result is a form of differential treatment that reinforces vulnerability and undermines the principle of equal citizenship.

This historical continuity is particularly significant. Recurring episodes of communal violence, sexual violence, religious persecution, land dispossession, economic coercion, and displacement have persisted across colonial, Pakistani, and post-independence

Bangladeshi political periods and under governments of differing political orientations. The underlying problem therefore cannot be attributed solely to one administration, political party, or temporary period of instability. Rather, the evidence points to unresolved structural conditions that successive governments have failed to remedy effectively.

These different forms of abuse frequently reinforce one another. A land dispute may be accompanied by communal intimidation; a blasphemy allegation may trigger hostility or violence affecting an entire family, neighborhood, or village; political or local influence may discourage victims from seeking legal remedies; and inadequate police or judicial response may strengthen the perception that perpetrators can act with limited consequences. Over time, this combination of violence, dispossession, discrimination, and institutional inaction can create an environment in which minority communities experience citizenship and State protection differently from the majority population.

Taken together, the evidence points not merely to recurring incidents of violence, but to **persistent structural inequality in protection, accountability, and access to justice**. The central challenge is therefore not simply whether individual perpetrators are prosecuted, but whether Bangladesh can ensure that minority citizens receive the same protection of life, property, religious freedom, dignity, and legal rights as every other citizen—regardless of which government or political administration is in power.

3. Methodology and Verification Standard

This report was produced using a structured human-rights documentation methodology designed to ensure accuracy, transparency, consistency, and evidentiary reliability. Given the high-risk environment in which many incidents occurred, particular care was taken to corroborate information through multiple independent sources and to apply consistent verification standards across all recorded cases.

The methodology used in this report is informed by widely recognized principles of human-rights documentation, including source corroboration, victim protection, careful handling of evidence, and responsible reporting in high-risk and vulnerable-community environments.

3.1 Data Sources

Information contained in this report was compiled from the following primary and secondary sources:

- HRCBM field observers and local coordinators operating across districts and divisions

- Direct testimony from victims, family members, witnesses, and community representatives
- Hospital and medical documentation, including post-incident treatment records where accessible
- Police documentation, including General Diary (GD) entries, FIR references, and station-level confirmations
- Court records and legal documentation where available
- Corroborated media reporting from national and local news outlets
- Photographic, video, and digital evidence received from affected communities
- Local human-rights defenders, journalists, and civil society networks

Wherever possible, HRCBM sought corroboration through multiple independent sources. In cases where two-source corroboration was not reasonably obtainable, the credibility, specificity, and reliability of the available evidence were assessed before inclusion.

3.2 Inclusion Criteria: What Qualifies as a Documented Incident

An incident was included in the registry if it satisfied one or more of the following conditions:

- Physical assault, abduction, kidnapping, or violent intimidation targeting minority individuals or communities
- Murder, lynching, suspicious death, or death occurring under circumstances suggesting foul play
- Sexual violence, rape, gang rape, attempted sexual assault, or gender-based coercion
- Allegations or documented concerns involving forced conversion, coercive marriage, or violations affecting freedom of religion or belief
- Temple attacks, idol vandalism, religious desecration, or attacks on religious gatherings or institutions
- Land grabbing, destruction of homes, arson, looting, extortion, or property-related intimidation
- Threats, communal intimidation, or organized harassment directed at minority individuals or institutions
- Institutional failures associated with documented incidents—including alleged negligence, delayed response, or failure to provide equal protection—were recorded as contextual or analytical factors where relevant.

Natural deaths, unverifiable rumors, duplicate reports, and incidents lacking minimum credibility thresholds were excluded from the final registry.

3.3 Duplicate Elimination and Data Integrity

To ensure the integrity and reliability of the dataset:

- All case entries were cross-checked by name, date, location, incident description, and available supporting documentation
- Apparent duplicates arising from multiple reports of the same incident were consolidated into a single verified record
- Incidents involving multiple victims were recorded as a single incident entry while maintaining victim-specific details in supporting datasets where applicable
- Ongoing corrections, updates, and revisions are tracked through HRCBM's data-review and record-management process

Where inconsistencies or conflicting reports existed, additional verification was conducted prior to inclusion whenever feasible.

3.4 Verification Assessment

The strength of available evidence was assessed according to the nature, independence, and reliability of corroborating information. Where appropriate, HRCBM distinguished among cases with high levels of corroboration, cases supported by credible local or eyewitness verification, and cases in which full verification remained constrained by security risks, restricted access, institutional non-cooperation, fear of retaliation, or an ongoing investigation.

Cases may be periodically reviewed and updated as additional evidence becomes available. Incidents lacking a minimum threshold of credibility were excluded from the final documented dataset.

3.5 Ethical Safeguards

HRCBM applied ethical and victim-protection standards throughout the documentation and reporting process, including:

- Protection of victim dignity in language, imagery, and representation
- Redaction of sensitive personal details where disclosure could endanger survivors, victims, or witnesses
- Special care regarding cases involving sexual violence, minors, and vulnerable individuals
- Informed consent obtained prior to publication of family testimony or identifying information where feasible

- Application of the “do no harm” principle in investigative, archival, and publication decisions

These safeguards were implemented to ensure that efforts to document violations and pursue accountability do not expose affected individuals or communities to further risk or retraumatization.

4.0 Statistical Analysis

This section presents a descriptive statistical analysis of documented incidents affecting religious and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh during the **January–June 2026** reporting period. The statistical findings are based on incident records documented and assessed through HRCBM’s methodology, drawing on field observations, victim and witness accounts, local verification, corroborated media reporting, and supporting police, medical, legal, or institutional records where available.

The figures presented in this section reflect **documented incident counts rather than individual victim totals**. A single incident may affect multiple victims, family members, properties, religious institutions, or entire communities. Accordingly, the human impact of the documented violations is substantially broader than the numerical incident count alone may suggest.

The analysis examines the principal categories of documented violations, including:

- murders and mysterious deaths;
- kidnappings and physical assaults;
- rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- attacks on temples and religious institutions;
- property attacks, land grabbing, arson, and looting;
- blasphemy-related incidents; and
- associated patterns of communal intimidation, persecution, and institutional protection failures.

Where demographic, geographic, or incident-specific information was incomplete or unavailable, the report acknowledges such limitations and avoids unsupported inference or over-interpretation. The statistical findings should therefore be understood as a quantitative representation of **documented and sufficiently credible cases**, rather than a comprehensive measure of all violations affecting minority communities during the reporting period.

4.1 Monthly Distribution of Documented Incidents

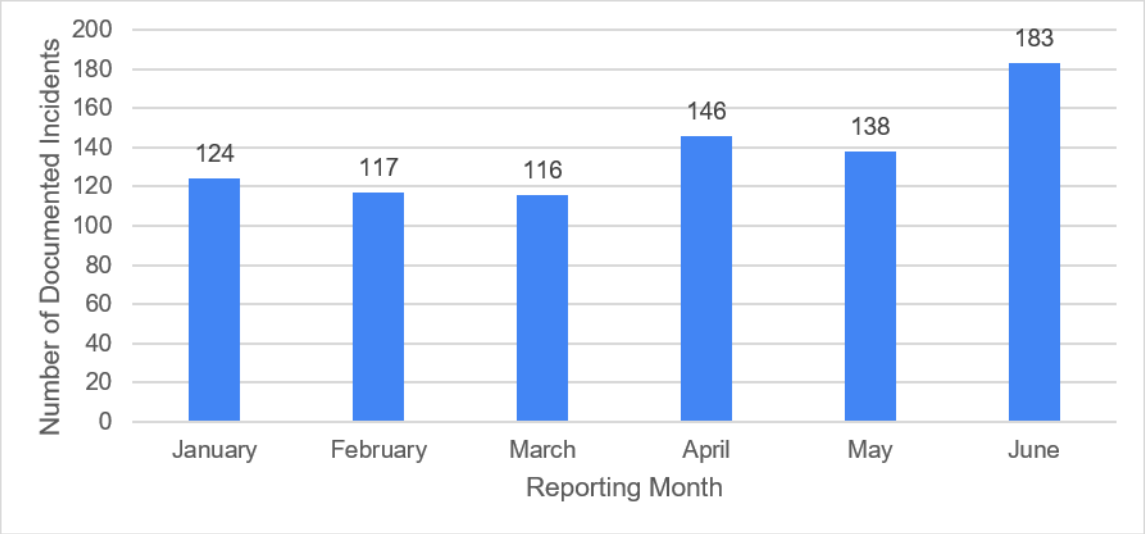


Figure 6. Monthly Trend of Documented Incidents Affecting Minority Communities (January–June 2026).

Figure 6 illustrates the monthly progression of documented incidents affecting minority communities between January and June 2026. The data reveal a sustained pattern of violence, intimidation, dispossession, and persecution throughout the six-month reporting period, with incident levels remaining persistently elevated and reaching their highest level in June.

The reporting period began with **124 documented incidents in January 2026**. February recorded **117 incidents**, followed by **116 incidents in March**, indicating relatively consistent levels of documented violations during the first quarter of the year.

A significant increase occurred in **April, with 146 documented incidents**. Although the monthly total declined moderately to **138 incidents in May**, it remained substantially elevated. In **June, documented incidents increased sharply to 183—the highest monthly total recorded during the six-month reporting period**.

The relatively narrow variation between January and March indicates that the documented violations were not confined to isolated episodes or short-lived communal disturbances. Rather, incidents continued at persistently high levels across consecutive months and geographically dispersed regions.

The increase beginning in April, followed by the particularly high number of incidents documented in June, is especially concerning. The documented violations during this period included:

- murders and mysterious deaths;

- kidnappings and physical assaults;
- rape and sexual violence;
- attacks on temples and religious institutions;
- land grabbing and property attacks;
- arson and looting; and
- blasphemy-related incidents with potentially wider communal consequences.

The absence of sustained de-escalation during the reporting period, culminating in **183 documented incidents in June**, raises serious concerns regarding the effectiveness of existing protection and deterrence mechanisms, the persistence of communal vulnerability, and the continuing conditions that allow violence, intimidation, and dispossession affecting minority communities to recur.

Overall, the monthly distribution demonstrates that the violations documented between January and June 2026 represent a **continuing and geographically widespread human-rights concern rather than a series of isolated criminal events**. Most concerning is that the reporting period ended not with a sustained decline, but with **June recording the highest monthly incident count of the entire six-month period**, underscoring the urgency of effective preventive action, protection, investigation, and accountability.

4.2 **Geographic and District-Level Distribution of Documented Incidents**

An examination of the district-level incident registry shows that documented violence and persecution affecting minority communities were geographically widespread across Bangladesh during the **January–June 2026** reporting period. Incidents were documented across **63 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and all eight administrative divisions**, demonstrating that the pattern of abuse was national in geographic scope rather than confined to isolated local disputes or a limited number of communal flashpoints.

Based on the district-coded incident compilations reviewed by HRCBM, a total of **824 documented incidents** were distributed across these 63 districts. The distribution reflects documented incident counts rather than individual victim totals. Where a single incident affected multiple individuals, families, properties, or religious institutions, its broader human impact may therefore extend substantially beyond the numerical incident count.

At the divisional level, the highest concentration of documented incidents was recorded in **Chattogram Division, with 189 incidents**, followed by **Dhaka Division with 166 incidents, Khulna Division with 135 incidents, and Rangpur Division with 98 incidents**.

Together, these four divisions accounted for **588 of the 824 documented incidents, or approximately 71.4%** of all incidents recorded during the six-month reporting period.

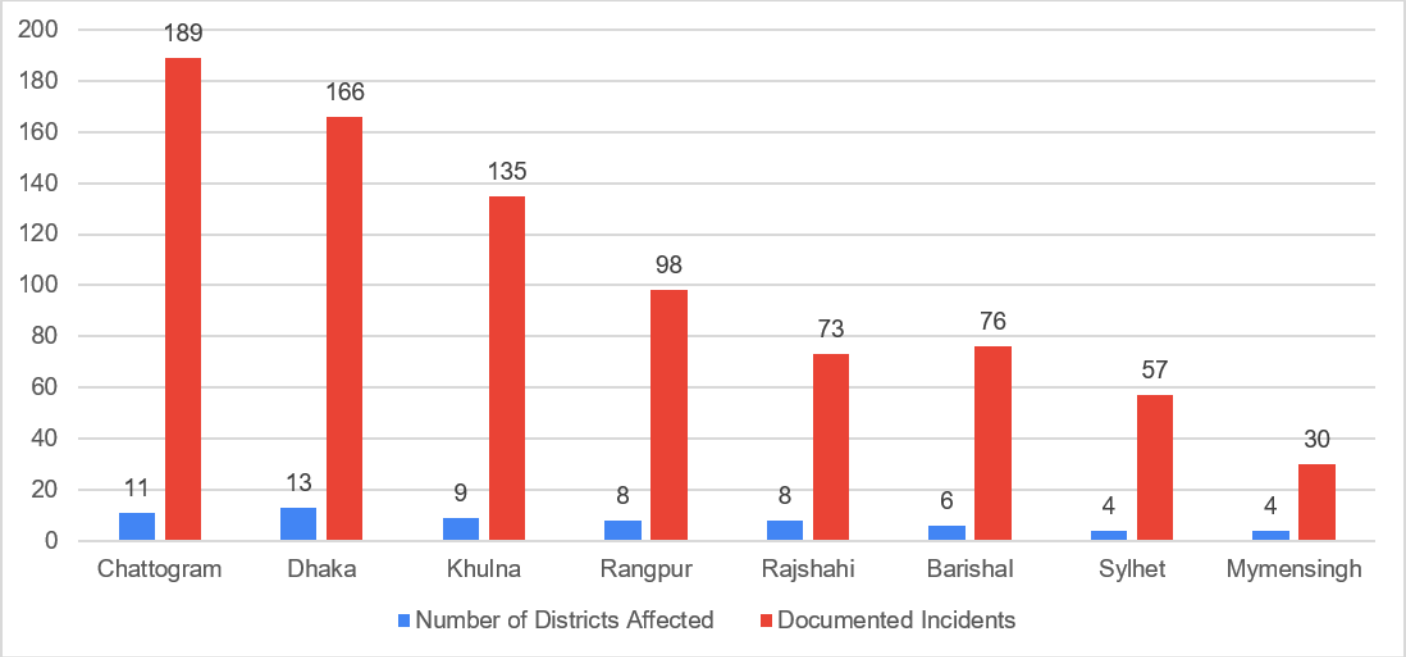


Figure 7. Division-Level Distribution of Documented Incidents and Number of Districts Affected, January–June 2026.

The district-level data reveal several areas with particularly high concentrations of documented incidents. **Chittagong (Chattogram) District recorded the highest number, with 74 incidents, followed by Khulna (49), Dhaka (45), Barishal (30), Satkhira (25), and Cox's Bazar (24)** [please refer to the table below]**.** Other districts with substantial documented concentrations included Faridpur and Rangpur (19 each); Bagerhat, Cumilla, Habiganj, and Patuakhali (18 each); and Bogura, Gaibandha, and Thakurgaon (17 each).

These concentrations reflect multiple forms of documented violations, including murders and mysterious deaths, physical assaults and kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land and property attacks, arson, looting, blasphemy-related incidents, and associated forms of communal intimidation and persecution.

The geographic distribution demonstrates that minority insecurity affected both urban and rural communities. Incidents were documented in metropolitan areas, district towns, rural unions and villages, coastal regions, border districts, tea-garden areas, and Indigenous-populated hill districts. The recurrence of similar forms of violence and persecution across geographically distant districts indicates that the documented violations cannot reasonably be understood solely as isolated criminal acts or localized disturbances. Rather, the data point to **geographically widespread and persistent structural vulnerabilities affecting minority communities across Bangladesh**.

Table 3. District-Level Distribution of Documented Incidents by Division (January–June 2026).

Division	District	Count
Chittagong	Chaittgong Sadar (চট্টগ্রাম)	74
	Cox's Bazar (কক্সবাজার)	24
	Cumilla (কুমিল্লা)	18
	Noakhali (নোয়াখালী)	15
	Feni (ফেনী)	13
	Khagrachhari (খাগড়াছড়ি)	10
	Brahmanbaria (ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া)	8
	Rangamati (রাঙামাটি)	8
	Bandarban (বান্দরবান)	7
	Chandpur (চাঁদপুর)	6
	Lakshmipur (লক্ষ্মীপুর)	6
Dhaka	Dhaka Sadar (ঢাকা)	45
	Faridpur (ফরিদপুর)	19
	Gopalganj (গোপালগঞ্জ)	16
	Madaripur (মাদারীপুর)	14
	Manikganj (মানিকগঞ্জ)	12
	Gazipur (গাজীপুর)	9
	Kishoreganj (কিশোরগঞ্জ)	9
	Narsingdi (নরসিংদী)	9
	Tangail (টাঙ্গাইল)	9
	Munshiganj (মুন্সিগঞ্জ)	8
	Narayanganj (নারায়ণগঞ্জ)	7
	Shariatpur (শরীয়তপুর)	5
	Rajbari (রাজবাড়ী)	4
Khulna	Khulna (খুলনা)	49
	Satkhira (সাতক্ষীরা)	25
	Bagerhat (বাগেরহাট)	18
	Jashore (যশোর)	15
	Jhenaidah (ঝিনাইদহ)	10

Division	District	Count
	Magura (মাগুরা)	8
	Narail (নড়াইল)	8
	Chuadanga (চুয়াডাঙ্গা)	1
	Kushtia (কুষ্টিয়া)	1
Rangpur	Rangpur (রংপুর)	19
	Gaibandha (গাইবান্ধা)	17
	Thakurgaon (ঠাকুরগাঁও)	17
	Dinajpur (দিনাজপুর)	15
	Kurigram (কুড়িগ্রাম)	9
	Nilphamari (নীলফামারী)	8
	Lalmonirhat (লালমনিরহাট)	7
	Panchagarh (পঞ্চগড়)	6
Rajshahi	Bogura (বগুড়া)	17
	Naogaon (নওগাঁ)	13
	Pabna (পাবনা)	10
	Sirajganj (সিরাজগঞ্জ)	9
	Rajshahi (রাজশাহী)	8
	Joypurhat (জয়পুরহাট)	7
	Natore (নাটোর)	7
	Chapainawabganj (চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ)	2
Barishal	Barishal (বরিশাল)	30
	Patuakhali (পটুয়াখালী)	18
	Pirojpur (পিরোজপুর)	10
	Barguna (বরগুনা)	7
	Bhola (ভোলা)	6
	Jhalokathi (ঝালকাঠি)	5
Sylhet	Habiganj (হবিগঞ্জ)	18
	Sunamganj (সুনামগঞ্জ)	14
	Sylhet (সিলেট)	14
	Moulvibazar (মৌলভীবাজার)	11

Division	District	Count
Mymensingh	Mymensingh (ময়মনসিংহ)	13
	Netrokona (নেত্রকোনা)	12
	Jamalpur (জামালপুর)	3
	Sherpur (শেরপুর)	2

4.3 Vulnerable Groups and Community Impact

Beyond the geographic and temporal distribution of the **824 documented incidents**, the January–June 2026 incident registry reveals the broad and often collective impact of violence, persecution, intimidation, and dispossession affecting minority communities across Bangladesh. The documented incidents encompass multiple forms of harm, including murders and mysterious deaths, physical assaults and kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, property attacks, land grabbing, arson, looting, blasphemy-related incidents, and associated patterns of communal intimidation and institutional protection failures.

Many documented incidents affected not only individually identified victims but also **entire families, religious institutions, businesses, neighborhoods, villages, and community groups**. An attack on one individual, temple, home, or business may therefore produce consequences extending far beyond the immediate victim, including displacement, loss of livelihood, economic insecurity, fear of retaliation, disruption of religious practice, and prolonged psychological trauma.

The available data do not support a complete statistical distribution by gender or age. In a number of documented cases, information concerning age, gender, religion, ethnicity, or individual victim identity was unavailable, not applicable to the nature of the incident, or not consistently recorded. In particularly sensitive cases—including sexual violence—survivors and families may also be unwilling or unable to disclose identifying information because of stigma, fear of retaliation, family or community pressure, or concerns regarding personal safety.

For these reasons, this report does not present a formal gender- or age-based statistical distribution that could imply a level of demographic completeness unsupported by the available evidence. Instead, the analysis identifies recurring groups facing particular forms of vulnerability, including **women and girls; children and students; elderly persons; religious leaders; Indigenous and ethnic minority communities; business owners and traders; farmers and agricultural families; workers; teachers; and economically vulnerable households**.

The following subsections examine these vulnerabilities in greater detail. Importantly, their impact cannot be measured solely through incident counts or individually identified victims. **A single incident may destabilize an entire family, destroy a household's livelihood, displace residents from ancestral property, disrupt the religious life of a community, or generate fear across an entire minority population in the affected locality.**

4.3.1 Women, Girls, and Gender-Based Vulnerability

Women and girls appeared repeatedly in documented incidents involving **rape, gang rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual violence, abduction, missing-person cases, coercion, forced or coercive marriage allegations, threats of sexual violence, and other forms of gender-based intimidation**.

During the January–June 2026 reporting period, HRCBM documented **41 incidents categorized as sexual violence, rape, or gang rape**. These cases demonstrate that gender-based violence constituted a serious dimension of the broader pattern of insecurity and persecution affecting minority communities. Additional documented incidents involved the disappearance or abduction of minority girls and young women, allegations of forced or coercive marriage, and other forms of gender-based coercion and intimidation that may not have been classified within the sexual-violence category itself.

The figure of **41 documented sexual-violence incidents should be understood as a verified minimum rather than an estimate of the true prevalence of such abuse**. Sexual violence remains severely underreported because survivors and families may face intense social stigma, fear of retaliation, concern for family reputation, community pressure, risk of further victimization, and reluctance to approach law-enforcement or medical institutions. HRCBM's documentation efforts are further constrained by limited access to police and hospital records in some cases and by the fact that incidents involving minority victims may receive little or no media coverage. Consequently, a significant number of cases may never be formally reported, independently verified, or brought to HRCBM's attention.

These incidents raise serious human-rights concerns relating to **bodily autonomy, personal security, child protection, freedom of religion or belief, equality before the law, access to justice, and protection from gender-based violence**. The recurrence of such cases further demonstrates the intersecting vulnerabilities faced by minority women and girls, whose exposure to abuse may be shaped simultaneously by **gender, religious or ethnic identity, age, economic vulnerability, and the broader insecurity affecting their communities**.

4.3.2 Children, Students, and Youth

The incident registry includes multiple cases involving **schoolchildren, college and university students, and young adults**, demonstrating that children and youth were among those affected by the broader patterns of violence, intimidation, and insecurity documented during the reporting period. Reported cases included missing students, physical attacks, suspicious deaths, abduction concerns, forced or coercive marriage allegations, religious intimidation, harassment in educational environments, and violence affecting children within minority families.

Several documented incidents involved girls who disappeared or were reported missing while traveling to or from **school, college, private tutoring, or other educational activities**. Other cases involved students subjected to harassment, threats, intimidation, or institutional pressure allegedly connected to their religious or minority identity. Such incidents may expose children and young people not only to immediate physical danger but also to **educational disruption, psychological trauma, fear of movement, social isolation, and prolonged insecurity**.

The impact may extend beyond the individual child or student. When families fear abduction, harassment, communal hostility, or violence, parents may feel compelled to restrict children's movement, interrupt schooling, relocate, or alter daily routines in ways that can have lasting consequences for education and personal development.

The presence of children, students, and young adults in the incident registry demonstrates that the consequences of insecurity affecting minority communities extend beyond immediate physical harm. They also affect the ability of minority families to **educate, protect, and raise their children in an environment free from fear, discrimination, coercion, and violence**, with potentially significant long-term consequences for the well-being and future prospects of an entire generation.

4.3.3 Elderly Persons, Widows, and Persons with Disabilities

The incident registry also includes cases affecting **elderly persons, widows, and persons with disabilities**, highlighting the particular risks faced by individuals who may have limited physical mobility, reduced economic independence, weaker family or social support, or greater difficulty accessing institutional protection and legal remedies. Documented cases included missing elderly persons, suspicious deaths, physical attacks, land- and property-related pressure, robbery, intimidation, and forms of economic exploitation.

Such incidents can have especially severe consequences where affected individuals depend on family members, community support, inherited property, agricultural land, housing, or limited sources of income for their security and survival. Elderly persons and widows may be particularly vulnerable to coercive pressure involving **land, inheritance,**

housing, and livelihood assets, while persons with disabilities may face additional barriers in reporting abuse, seeking medical assistance, traveling to police stations or courts, communicating with authorities, or pursuing legal remedies independently.

The consequences often extend beyond the immediate victim. Where an elderly person, widow, or person with a disability is connected to a household's land, housing, inheritance, or livelihood security, violence, intimidation, dispossession, or economic coercion may destabilize the broader family and increase the risk of poverty, dependency, displacement, and prolonged insecurity.

The presence of elderly persons, widows, and persons with disabilities in the documented cases further demonstrates that insecurity affecting minority communities can fall particularly heavily on those who may have the **fewest resources and greatest barriers to protecting themselves, escaping harm, or obtaining timely and effective remedies**.

4.3.4 Religious Institutions, Clergy, and Community Worship

A substantial portion of the incident registry involved attacks on **religious institutions, sacred sites, places of community worship, and individuals serving religious communities**. During the January–June 2026 reporting period, HRCBM documented **141 incidents categorized as temple attacks and religious vandalism**. Documented cases included attacks on temples and other religious institutions, vandalism or desecration of idols and sacred objects, theft from religious premises, damage to places of worship, and other forms of interference with religious sites and community religious life.

The documented violence was not limited to buildings or sacred property. **Religious leaders, clergy, priests, monks, spiritual figures, religious caretakers, and others associated with places of worship also faced serious threats and physical violence. The incident registry includes cases involving the murder, lynching, physical assault, intimidation, and persecution of religious figures.** Such incidents carry particular significance because attacks on individuals who serve as religious or spiritual leaders can generate fear far beyond the immediate victim and affect the religious security of entire communities.

The documented incidents also affected **temples, idols and sacred objects, cremation grounds, religious gatherings, devotees, and community worship spaces**. In some cases, religious institutions and communities were additionally affected by land- and property-related pressures, further increasing the vulnerability of communities whose religious and cultural institutions are connected to historically held or contested land.

The consequences of these violations extend far beyond physical injury, loss of life, property damage, or financial loss. **The killing or lynching of a religious figure, or an attack on a temple, sacred object, cremation ground, or place of worship, can have a profound collective impact**, disrupting religious practice, generating fear among

worshippers, undermining community leadership, and threatening collective dignity, cultural continuity, and freedom of religion or belief.

Religious institutions often function not only as places of worship but also as centers of **community identity, cultural heritage, social cohesion, and collective security**. Violence against religious leaders or sacred institutions may therefore send a broader message of intimidation to the community they represent, particularly where perpetrators are not effectively investigated or held accountable.

The repeated occurrence of attacks affecting religious institutions and religious figures demonstrates that the insecurity experienced by minority communities is not confined to individual physical safety or private property. It extends to the **collective exercise of freedom of religion or belief and the ability of communities to maintain their religious leadership, places of worship, sacred traditions, and cultural identity without fear of murder, lynching, violence, desecration, intimidation, or interference**.

4.3.5 Business Owners, Workers, Farmers, and Livelihood Earners

The incident registry also shows repeated attacks affecting the **economic security and livelihoods of minority individuals and families**. Documented incidents included attacks on businesses and shops, robbery and theft, extortion, land grabbing, crop destruction, arson, looting, property attacks, and violence affecting farmers, traders, shopkeepers, transport workers, teachers, wage earners, and other livelihood-dependent individuals.

During the January–June 2026 reporting period, HRCBM documented **234 incidents categorized as property attacks, land grabbing, arson, and looting**. Many of these incidents directly affected household income, business continuity, agricultural production, housing security, and the long-term economic survival of affected families.

In several documented cases, physical violence or intimidation was accompanied by the destruction, seizure, occupation, or loss of **land, crops, shops, homes, livestock, business assets, or other sources of livelihood**. Such losses can have consequences far beyond the immediate financial value of the property involved, particularly where families depend on inherited land, small businesses, agriculture, or daily wages for their survival.

For economically vulnerable minority households, the destruction of a shop, seizure of agricultural land, burning of a home, or loss of livelihood assets can rapidly lead to **debt, unemployment, food insecurity, displacement, and long-term economic dependency**. Where victims face difficulties obtaining effective police protection, recovering property, or securing legal remedies, the economic consequences may become prolonged or permanent.

These patterns indicate that insecurity affecting minority communities can operate not only through physical violence and intimidation but also through **economic coercion and**

dispossession. The destruction or seizure of property and livelihood resources may weaken a family's ability to remain in its community, pursue legal remedies, or recover from violence, thereby contributing to broader patterns of insecurity, displacement, and social marginalization.

4.3.6 Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Communities

The incident registry includes cases affecting **Indigenous and ethnic minority individuals and communities**, particularly in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and other regions where minority populations face longstanding concerns relating to land, identity, security, and access to effective protection. Documented cases involved members of the **Mro, Tripura, Chakma, and other ethnic minority communities**, as well as individuals and families from tea-garden communities and other socially and economically marginalized groups.

Documented incidents included **physical assaults, land- and property-related attacks, threats and intimidation, suspicious deaths, and other forms of community insecurity**. In several cases, the reported harm was closely connected to disputes or pressures involving land, ancestral property, community territory, or the ability of minority populations to remain securely in areas where they have historically lived.

The recurring intersection of **land, ethnic identity, and violence** raises serious human-rights concerns regarding land and property rights, physical security, cultural continuity, freedom from discrimination, and equal protection under the law. For Indigenous and ethnic minority communities, the loss or threatened loss of land may carry consequences extending beyond economic deprivation, affecting community identity, traditional ways of life, social cohesion, and the transmission of cultural heritage across generations.

Violence, intimidation, or dispossession affecting one individual or family may also create wider insecurity within the surrounding community, particularly where there are fears of further land encroachment, retaliation, displacement, or inadequate institutional protection. These patterns underscore the need for effective measures to protect the **life, land, property, cultural identity, and equal citizenship rights of Indigenous and ethnic minority communities**, together with accessible and impartial mechanisms for investigation, remedy, and accountability.

4.3.7 Community-Level Harm

The documented incidents demonstrate that the consequences of violence and persecution were not limited to individually identified victims. Many incidents affected **entire families, neighborhoods, religious communities, occupational groups, villages,**

and other minority populations, creating consequences that extended well beyond the immediate act of violence, intimidation, or dispossession.

The incident registry demonstrates cascading impacts including:

- **family instability and displacement**, particularly where homes, land, or sources of livelihood were attacked or lost;
- **economic insecurity and loss of livelihood** resulting from land grabbing, property destruction, arson, looting, robbery, extortion, and attacks on businesses or agricultural assets;
- **disruption of religious and community life** following attacks on religious institutions, sacred sites, clergy, and places of worship;
- **educational disruption and restrictions on mobility** affecting children, students, and young people;
- **heightened fear and insecurity among women and girls**, particularly in the context of sexual violence, abduction, coercion, and gender-based intimidation;
- **psychological trauma and collective fear**, extending in some cases from individual victims to families and surrounding communities;
- **increased vulnerability of elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities, and economically marginalized households**; and
- **community-wide insecurity and displacement pressure**, particularly where violence, land dispossession, religious intimidation, or repeated threats undermine a community's ability to remain safely in its locality.

Vulnerable Group	Documented Forms of Harm
Women and girls	Sexual violence; abduction; missing-person cases; coercive marriage concerns; intimidation.
Children and students	Disappearance; assault; educational disruption; religious intimidation; coercion.
Elderly persons and widows	Missing-person cases; suspicious deaths; land pressure; physical vulnerability.
Religious institutions and clergy	Temple attacks; idol vandalism; arson; theft; threats; religious obstruction.
Business owners and workers	Robbery; extortion; assault; murder; destruction of livelihood.
Farmers and rural families	Land grabbing; crop destruction; arson; intimidation; displacement pressure.
Indigenous and ethnic minorities	Land-related attacks; physical violence; threats; community insecurity.
Urban minority residents	Suspicious deaths; robbery; assault; institutional harassment; intimidation.

Note: This figure summarizes recurring vulnerable groups and forms of harm identified in the incident registry. It does not represent a complete statistical age or gender distribution because many documented incidents affected families, institutions, businesses, religious sites, or communities rather than individually coded victims.

Figure 8. Vulnerable Groups and Forms of Harm Documented in the Incident Registry.

The available evidence demonstrates that violence and persecution affected minority communities across **age, gender, religious and ethnic identity, occupation, economic status, and geography**. The consequences extended beyond individual injury, death, or property loss, affecting family stability, livelihood security, religious freedom, educational continuity, women's and children's safety, cultural identity, community cohesion, and the ability of minority communities to live with dignity and security.

Importantly, the broader impact of these incidents cannot be fully represented through numerical incident counts alone. **A single killing, sexual assault, abduction, attack on a religious figure, destruction of a temple, seizure of land, or attack on a family's livelihood may generate consequences affecting many individuals and, in some circumstances, an entire community.** The community-level harm documented in this report therefore forms an essential part of understanding the wider human-rights impact of the 824 incidents recorded during the January–June 2026 reporting period.

4.4 Institutional Response, Access to Justice, and Impunity Concerns

Analysis of the January–June 2026 incident registry reveals recurring concerns regarding **institutional protection, access to justice, accountability, and the persistence of impunity** in cases affecting minority communities. The documented incidents span multiple forms of harm, including murders and mysterious deaths, physical assaults and kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on religious institutions, land and property dispossession, arson, looting, blasphemy-related incidents, intimidation, and violence affecting homes, businesses, livelihoods, and community institutions.

Complete quantitative indicators—such as the proportion of cases resulting in FIR registration, the time taken to register complaints, arrest rates, investigation status, charge-sheet submission, prosecution outcomes, and convictions—were not uniformly available across all documented incidents. The available evidence therefore does not permit a comprehensive statistical assessment of the criminal-justice response to all **824 documented incidents**. Nevertheless, the registry contains recurring qualitative indicators raising concerns regarding **delayed or inadequate protection, barriers to obtaining effective remedies, inconsistent investigative follow-through, intimidation of victims and families, and limited accountability in some cases**.

These observations are based on HRCBM field documentation, local verification, victim and family accounts, witness information, corroborated media reporting, and available police, legal, or administrative records, including General Diary (GD) references, FIR information, written complaints, reported police involvement, court-related information, and community-level follow-up where available.

The registry includes cases in which authorities reportedly intervened, visited incident locations, recovered bodies, received complaints, rescued victims, or arrested suspects. It also includes cases in which available information indicated **delayed action, absence of immediate arrests, inadequate preventive protection, limited administrative assistance, uncertain investigative progress, or threats and pressure directed at victims or family members seeking justice**. These differing experiences underscore that the central concern is not an assertion of complete institutional failure in every documented case, but rather the **inconsistency, unpredictability, and, in some cases, apparent inadequacy of institutional protection and accountability**.

Taken together, these patterns raise broader concerns regarding whether minority victims and communities are able to obtain **timely, equal, and effective protection of the law**, particularly where alleged perpetrators possess local influence, where incidents involve contested land or property, or where victims face social, economic, or security barriers to pursuing legal remedies.

4.4.1 Core Institutional Response Patterns Observed

Across the incident registry, supporting case documentation, field investigations, and HRCBM's broader legal and human-rights work, several recurring patterns emerge concerning institutional response, equal protection of law, access to justice, and accountability.

Failure or Delay in Registering Complaints and Acting on Cognizable Offences

HRCBM documented repeated concerns regarding delays or reluctance in recording General Diary entries, registering cases, or initiating effective investigation after serious incidents affecting minority victims. In some cases, victims or family members were reportedly reluctant to pursue complaints because of fear of retaliation, local pressure, or threats from alleged perpetrators.

A victim's or family's reluctance to file a complaint because of fear of retaliation should not, by itself, prevent law-enforcement authorities from acting where they have information or other grounds to suspect that a cognizable offence has been committed. In such circumstances, the criminal-law framework permits—and, where legally applicable, requires—the authorities to initiate the prescribed investigative process. Particularly in cases involving suspected murder or other serious cognizable offences, effective law enforcement should not depend exclusively upon a traumatized, threatened, or intimidated victim or family personally assuming the burden of initiating proceedings.

HRCBM is therefore concerned by documented cases in which serious violence was known to authorities but meaningful investigation, case registration, or action against alleged perpetrators appeared delayed, absent, or dependent upon sustained pressure from victims, families, lawyers, or community representatives.

Allegations of Selective, Unequal, or Biased Law-Enforcement Response

The institutional concern extends beyond administrative delay. HRCBM's documentation has identified cases in which minority victims or families alleged that police assessments, investigative decisions, or enforcement practices appeared unequal, prejudicial, or influenced by the identity or local power of the parties involved.

These concerns include allegations that cases viewed by victims as false or fabricated were allowed to proceed against minority defendants, while complaints brought by minority victims encountered delay, inadequate investigation, or limited enforcement. In other cases, alleged perpetrators of violence reportedly remained at liberty despite identifiable accusations and available information, reinforcing perceptions among affected communities that accountability is applied inconsistently.

The recurrence of such allegations raises serious concerns regarding the constitutional guarantees of **equality before law, equal protection of law, and the right of every citizen to protection in accordance with law**.

Failure to Protect Victims Who Fear Retaliation

Fear of reprisal emerged repeatedly as a barrier to justice. Victims and families may be reluctant to approach police, pursue criminal cases, testify, or continue legal proceedings where alleged perpetrators possess local political, economic, or communal influence.

HRCBM is particularly concerned where law enforcement treats such reluctance as a reason for inaction rather than as an indication that the victim may require additional protection. In serious cases, particularly where authorities independently possess information suggesting the commission of a cognizable offence, the absence of a willing family complainant should not automatically bring the investigative process to an end.

Failure to protect intimidated victims or witnesses can create a cycle in which fear prevents reporting, lack of reporting contributes to impunity, and perceived impunity further emboldens perpetrators.

Abduction of Minority Girls, Reported Religious Conversion, and Judicial Protection Concerns

HRCBM has documented and received reports concerning minority girls, including minors, who were allegedly abducted, induced, or taken away from their families and subsequently reported as having converted to the majority religion or entered into marriage or relationships under disputed circumstances.

These cases raise particularly serious concerns where the individual involved is legally a minor. HRCBM has encountered cases in which families alleged that, rather than restoring the child to appropriate parental or lawful guardianship, courts or authorities placed the minor in state safe custody or otherwise prolonged separation from the family while disputes concerning custody, conversion, or marriage remained unresolved.

HRCBM is concerned that such practices may fail to adequately address the possibility of abduction, coercion, inducement, religious pressure, or manipulation of a vulnerable minor. Where safe custody is used, the State has an obligation to ensure that the child's welfare is paramount and that such custody does not become a prolonged substitute for timely judicial determination, family reunification where legally appropriate, or effective investigation of alleged criminal conduct.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the adequacy and neutrality of safeguards available to minority children placed in state custody, particularly where families allege

continuing religious or psychological pressure. These allegations require independent scrutiny and transparent child-protection safeguards.

Failure to Enforce Court Orders in Land and Property Cases

Land and property dispossession remains one of the most persistent institutional concerns identified by HRCBM. The registry includes allegations of land grabbing, forcible occupation, construction on disputed property, destruction of crops, attacks on homes, encroachment on temple land, and intimidation of minority landowners.

Of particular concern are cases in which affected families report having obtained court orders, injunctions, or other legal relief, yet alleged perpetrators were reportedly able to continue occupation, construction, encroachment, or interference because police or administrative authorities failed to provide effective enforcement.

Where a minority victim obtains judicial protection but cannot secure its practical enforcement, the existence of a court order alone does not provide an effective remedy. Such cases raise broader concerns about whether legal protection is being implemented equally in practice and whether persons with local political, economic, or social influence are able to act with relative impunity.

Institutional Handling of Blasphemy-Related Allegations

HRCBM's documentation of blasphemy-related incidents raises a distinct set of concerns regarding police impartiality, digital verification, public statements by officials, and the initiation or continuation of criminal proceedings.

In several cases reviewed or investigated by HRCBM, minority individuals were accused on the basis of alleged social-media activity that families, witnesses, or other available information indicated may have been fabricated, manipulated, posted through compromised accounts, or otherwise insufficiently verified. HRCBM has raised concerns that arrests or criminal proceedings sometimes occurred before adequate digital-forensic examination could establish authorship, control of the relevant account or device, or the authenticity of the alleged material.

HRCBM has also documented concerns regarding statements attributed to law-enforcement officials that appeared prejudicial or inflammatory before the underlying allegations had been independently established. Such conduct risks legitimizing unverified accusations, intensifying communal hostility, and prejudicing the presumption of innocence.

Where an allegation concerning religion is followed by mob mobilization, attacks on homes or businesses, destruction of property, or violence against family and community members, law enforcement must address not only the allegation against the accused

individual but also criminal acts committed by those who engage in collective retaliation. A recurring concern in HRCBM's documentation is that persons accused of blasphemy may face rapid arrest or prosecution while participants in subsequent mob violence, vandalism, or attacks may face substantially weaker accountability.

Impunity Following Communal and Mob Violence

The incident registry and HRCBM's broader documentation indicate recurring concerns that many alleged perpetrators involved in mob violence, communal attacks, property destruction, religious vandalism, or intimidation are not subjected to timely and effective accountability.

Where those involved in collective violence perceive that arrest, prosecution, or punishment is unlikely, the resulting impunity can weaken deterrence and increase the vulnerability of future victims. The concern is therefore not limited to justice for an individual incident; persistent failure to hold perpetrators accountable may contribute to an environment in which similar abuses recur.

Use or Alleged Misuse of Criminal Proceedings Against Minority Leaders and Advocates

HRCBM has also raised concerns regarding criminal proceedings against minority religious leaders and advocates, particularly where the organization believes charges are politically motivated, retaliatory, unsupported by credible evidence, or multiplied after an initial arrest.

The continuing prosecution and detention of **Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari**, a prominent religious figure associated with public advocacy for minority protection, has become a significant example cited by HRCBM in this context. He has remained subject to multiple criminal proceedings, including a murder case in which bail was rejected in May 2026, while other bail proceedings have also continued. HRCBM considers the circumstances surrounding his prolonged detention and the multiplication of cases against him to raise serious concerns regarding the possible selective or retaliatory use of criminal process against a minority religious advocate. Because those proceedings remain before the courts, this assessment should be clearly identified as **HRCBM's position and human-rights concern rather than a judicially established finding that the cases are false or State-sponsored**.

Systemic Concerns Regarding Allegedly False or Abusive Cases Against Minorities

Beyond individual incidents recorded during the January–June reporting period, HRCBM has identified what it describes as a broader pattern of allegedly false, politically influenced, retaliatory, or otherwise abusive criminal cases affecting minority individuals across Bangladesh.

According to HRCBM's own legal and organizational records, the organization sought judicial intervention in 2025 concerning **hundreds of cases that HRCBM alleges were falsely or improperly brought against members of minority communities**. HRCBM reports that the relevant writ proceedings have yet to receive substantive judicial determination. HRCBM has similarly pursued legal remedies concerning the protection of minority women and girls and other systemic minority-rights concerns, where prolonged judicial delay has itself become a matter of concern.

Such delays are particularly significant where litigation seeks structural protection rather than compensation after harm has already occurred. Where petitions alleging widespread violations or systemic protection failures remain unresolved for extended periods, the opportunity for preventive judicial intervention may diminish while the underlying harms continue.

Mixed Institutional Response, but Persistent Structural Inequality

HRCBM acknowledges that the registry includes cases in which police or other authorities visited incident locations, recovered bodies, rescued victims, received complaints, initiated investigations, or arrested suspects. The concern presented by this report is therefore not that every police officer, court, or institution failed in every case.

Rather, the cumulative pattern raises a more fundamental concern: **minority communities appear repeatedly to encounter inconsistent protection, delayed enforcement, alleged investigative bias, failure to enforce judicial remedies, inadequate protection from retaliation, and uncertainty as to whether perpetrators will ultimately be held accountable**.

The resulting question is one of equal citizenship and equal protection under law. Bangladesh's Constitution guarantees equality before law, equal protection of law, non-discrimination on grounds including religion, and the right to protection of law. Where minority victims repeatedly experience greater difficulty securing police action, enforcement of court orders, protection from retaliation, impartial investigation, or timely judicial remedies, the issue extends beyond isolated institutional shortcomings and raises concerns regarding **structural inequality in the practical administration of justice**.

4.4.2 Legal and Due-Diligence Concerns

The patterns documented in the incident registry and HRCBM's broader legal and field experience raise serious concerns regarding the State's responsibility to protect vulnerable communities, prevent foreseeable harm, respond to credible allegations of criminal conduct, investigate offences promptly and impartially, protect victims and witnesses from retaliation, and ensure equal and effective access to justice.

These responsibilities are particularly significant where authorities are aware of threats or circumstances indicating a serious risk of violence. Where law-enforcement authorities receive information or otherwise have reason to suspect the commission of a cognizable offence, institutional action should not depend exclusively upon whether a frightened, threatened, or traumatized victim or family is willing or able to initiate proceedings personally. This is especially important in cases involving suspected murder, abduction, serious physical violence, sexual offences, or other grave crimes where fear of retaliation may itself prevent victims from approaching the authorities.

The duty of effective protection also requires **impartiality in the administration of justice**. The concerns documented by HRCBM are therefore not limited to delayed police response. They extend to allegations of unequal investigative treatment, failure to act against identifiable alleged perpetrators, continuation of allegedly false or improperly founded criminal proceedings against minority individuals, prejudicial conduct in religiously sensitive cases, and inconsistent enforcement of judicial or administrative protection.

In cases involving **minority women and girls**, particularly minors alleged to have been abducted, coerced, converted, or married under disputed circumstances, the authorities and courts must ensure that the child's safety, welfare, legal capacity, family rights, and freedom from coercion are independently and effectively protected. Placement in state safe custody should not become a substitute for timely investigation of alleged abduction or coercion, appropriate judicial determination, and restoration to lawful guardianship where legally warranted. Allegations of religious pressure, psychological manipulation, or other forms of coercive influence require particularly careful and independent scrutiny.

In **land and property-related cases**, access to justice requires more than obtaining a court order on paper. Where judicial orders, injunctions, or administrative decisions exist but are not effectively enforced, victims may remain unable to recover or protect their land, homes, businesses, or religious property. Failure to enforce lawful remedies can render formal access to justice ineffective in practice and may permit dispossession to continue despite judicial intervention.

Similarly, **blasphemy-related allegations and other religiously sensitive accusations** require impartial investigation, careful verification of evidence, and protection of the presumption of innocence. Where allegations involve digital or social-media content, authorities should establish authorship, authenticity, account control, and other relevant facts before drawing prejudicial conclusions. Public statements by officials that appear to validate an unverified allegation may heighten communal tension, prejudice proceedings, and place the accused, their family, and the wider minority community at additional risk.

Due diligence also requires authorities to investigate and prosecute **violence committed in response to an allegation**. The arrest or prosecution of an accused minority individual cannot substitute for accountability for persons who engage in mob violence, destruction

of homes or businesses, attacks on religious institutions, intimidation, or collective retaliation.

The documented concerns therefore extend across multiple areas, including:

- murders and suspicious deaths;
- physical assaults, kidnappings, and abductions;
- sexual and gender-based violence;
- missing children and young persons;
- attacks on religious institutions and religious figures;
- blasphemy-related allegations and communal mobilization;
- land grabbing and property dispossession;
- attacks on homes, businesses, farms, and livelihoods;
- intimidation of victims, witnesses, and families seeking justice;
- alleged misuse or selective application of criminal proceedings; and
- failure or delay in implementing judicial and administrative remedies.

Taken together, these concerns indicate that the challenge is not merely a collection of isolated procedural deficiencies. They raise broader questions regarding **equal protection of law, institutional impartiality, effective remedy, and whether minority communities are able to rely upon the justice system with the same degree of confidence and protection that should be available to every citizen**.

4.4.3 Implications

The persistence of weak, inconsistent, delayed, or allegedly unequal institutional responses has consequences extending far beyond individual cases.

First, it contributes to fear and underreporting. Victims and families may hesitate to report violence, sexual abuse, abduction, land grabbing, intimidation, or other offences when they fear retaliation, doubt that authorities will provide effective protection, or believe that seeking justice may expose them to further pressure. This is particularly serious where victims are women, children, elderly persons, economically vulnerable families, or individuals living in areas where alleged perpetrators possess significant local influence.

Second, it weakens deterrence and increases the risk of repeated violations. When persons involved in violence, communal attacks, land dispossession, sexual abuse, religious vandalism, mob violence, or intimidation perceive that arrest, prosecution, or meaningful consequences are unlikely, impunity may embolden further abuse. The failure to hold perpetrators accountable in one incident can therefore increase the vulnerability of future victims.

Third, it can transform individual violations into community-wide insecurity. Many of the documented incidents affected not only individual victims but also families, religious institutions, businesses, villages, and wider minority communities. Where a killing, mob attack, temple assault, land seizure, or act of sexual violence is followed by little visible accountability, the resulting fear may extend throughout the surrounding community and alter decisions concerning residence, education, religious practice, economic activity, and personal security.

Fourth, it undermines confidence in domestic legal remedies. Filing a General Diary, complaint, FIR, writ petition, or other legal proceeding has limited protective value if investigations do not progress, alleged perpetrators remain beyond effective accountability, court orders are not enforced, or proceedings remain unresolved for prolonged periods. Formal access to legal institutions must therefore be accompanied by meaningful implementation and effective remedy.

Fifth, it may reinforce patterns of economic dispossession and displacement. Where minority families cannot obtain timely protection of land, homes, businesses, temples, or livelihood assets, prolonged insecurity may eventually compel them to surrender property claims, abandon ancestral homes, relocate, or accept disadvantageous settlements. In this way, institutional inaction can have demographic and community consequences extending beyond the original incident.

Sixth, allegations of selective or unequal application of law can undermine the principle of equal citizenship. Where minority victims perceive that complaints against them receive rapid institutional attention while complaints filed by them encounter greater delay, weaker enforcement, or greater procedural obstacles, the resulting perception is not merely one of administrative inefficiency. It raises a more fundamental concern about whether protection, investigation, and access to justice operate equally in practice.

Overall, the incident registry and HRCBM's broader documentation indicate that **institutional response and access to justice are themselves central components of the minority protection crisis**. The challenge is therefore not limited to preventing individual acts of violence. It requires reliable mechanisms for prompt investigation, independent and impartial decision-making, protection of victims and witnesses, enforcement of judicial orders, systematic case tracking, timely prosecution where supported by evidence, and meaningful oversight of State response.

Without such measures, underreporting, repeat victimization, distrust of institutions, economic dispossession, and perceptions of impunity are likely to persist, reinforcing the structural vulnerability documented throughout this report.

4.4.4 Long-Term Accountability Deficit and Barriers to Justice

The **824 incidents documented between January and June 2026** must also be understood within a longer institutional history of unresolved violence, delayed justice, and accountability concerns affecting minority communities in Bangladesh.

HRCBM's legal, advocacy, and documentation experience over more than two decades indicates that many cases involving communal violence, killings, sexual violence, religious persecution, land dispossession, attacks on religious institutions, and other serious abuses have not resulted in timely and effective remedies for victims and their families. The persistence of similar allegations across different political periods and successive governments raises concern that the underlying accountability deficit is structural rather than confined to a particular administration or moment of political instability.

Since 2006, HRCBM has pursued public-interest litigation and other legal initiatives concerning minority protection, recurring communal violence, land and property rights, institutional failures, and the protection of vulnerable minority populations. HRCBM's experience has been that a number of these matters have faced prolonged delay, have not received substantive or timely judicial consideration, or have remained without remedies proportionate to the urgency of the underlying allegations.

According to HRCBM's records, the organization also sought judicial intervention in 2025 concerning **hundreds of criminal cases that HRCBM alleges were falsely, improperly, or abusively brought against members of minority communities**. HRCBM reports that the relevant writ proceedings have yet to receive substantive judicial determination. HRCBM has similarly pursued legal intervention concerning the protection of minority women and girls, including systemic concerns involving abduction, coercion, disputed conversion, and related vulnerabilities. Prolonged delay in proceedings intended to address structural protection failures can itself diminish the preventive value of judicial intervention while the underlying risks continue.

This long-term accountability deficit is not merely procedural. **For affected communities, prolonged justice may become ineffective justice.** When criminal investigations remain unresolved, court orders are not effectively enforced, structural litigation remains unheard, alleged perpetrators face little visible accountability, or victims encounter repeated barriers to obtaining remedies, public confidence in domestic institutions is weakened.

The consequences can be cumulative. Victims may abandon complaints. Witnesses may become unwilling to cooperate. Families may surrender land or property claims. Communities may relocate rather than continue prolonged struggles for protection. Alleged perpetrators may interpret institutional inaction as evidence that further abuse will carry limited consequences.

HRCBM has also pursued international advocacy and submitted information and documentation to international mechanisms, including the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and other relevant international bodies. HRCBM has repeatedly brought minority-protection concerns to the attention of United Nations mechanisms, diplomatic missions, foreign governments, and international human-rights institutions. According to HRCBM's assessment, however, these efforts have not yet produced an accountability or protection response commensurate with the persistence and scale of the violations it has documented.

The significance of the January–June 2026 findings therefore extends beyond the resolution of **824 individual incidents**. These cases must be viewed against a broader environment in which HRCBM has repeatedly documented concerns regarding delayed police action, alleged investigative bias, inadequate protection from retaliation, failure to enforce legal remedies, allegedly false or abusive criminal proceedings, prolonged judicial delay, and limited accountability for communal and mob violence.

The cumulative concern is that **impunity is not merely the consequence of individual cases failing to reach prosecution; it may itself become a structural driver of continuing violations**. Where perpetrators expect limited consequences, victims expect limited protection, and communities lose confidence in available remedies, the conditions enabling violence, dispossession, intimidation, and persecution are reinforced.

HRCBM therefore urges Bangladesh's national authorities, law-enforcement agencies, judiciary, relevant oversight institutions, United Nations mechanisms, international human-rights bodies, diplomatic missions, and other stakeholders to recognize the accountability deficit as a central component of the minority protection crisis.

Effective response requires more than documenting each new incident after it occurs. It requires **credible and impartial investigation, timely prosecution where evidence supports charges, protection of victims and witnesses, enforcement of judicial orders, review of allegedly false or abusive criminal cases, timely adjudication of public-interest litigation, independent oversight of institutional conduct, and sustained national and international engagement aimed at preventing recurrence**.

Without meaningful accountability and structural reform, the documented cycle of **violence, intimidation, religious persecution, gender-based abuse, dispossession, displacement, and impunity** is likely to continue, leaving minority communities vulnerable regardless of changes in political administration.

5.0 Pattern Narratives: How the Persecution Unfolds

While earlier sections present the scale, geographic distribution, and statistical characteristics of the documented incidents, this section examines **how violence,**

intimidation, dispossession, and persecution unfolded in practice during the January–June 2026 reporting period. Drawing from HRCBM's six-month incident registry, field documentation, victim and witness accounts, and supporting records where available, the following narratives identify recurring mechanisms through which minority individuals, families, religious institutions, businesses, livelihood earners, and communities were affected.

The cases presented in this section are **representative examples selected from the broader registry of 824 documented incidents**. They are not the only incidents of their respective type, nor are they intended to provide an exhaustive account of every documented case. Rather, they illustrate recurring patterns observed across multiple districts and divisions, including **killings and suspicious deaths, physical assaults and kidnappings, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on religious institutions and religious figures, land and property dispossession, economic coercion, blasphemy-related persecution, communal and political intimidation, and institutional protection failures**.

These pattern narratives also demonstrate that different forms of harm frequently intersect. A land dispute may be accompanied by threats or physical violence; a blasphemy allegation may trigger wider communal mobilization and attacks on families or property; an assault may be followed by intimidation intended to prevent legal action; and violence against a religious institution or community leader may create fear extending far beyond the immediate victim.

The purpose of this section is therefore not merely to recount individual incidents, but to identify the **recurring pathways through which insecurity and persecution are experienced and reproduced**. Viewed collectively, these cases help illustrate how violence, coercion, institutional inaction, and impunity can interact to deepen the vulnerability of minority communities across Bangladesh.

5.1 Attacks on Temples, Idols, and Religious Institutions

A major recurring pattern in the January–June 2026 incident registry is the targeting of **temples, idols, religious institutions, religious gatherings, cremation grounds, and other sacred community spaces**. Documented incidents included vandalism, arson, theft, looting of donation boxes, destruction and desecration of idols, obstruction of religious practice, attacks on sacred materials, and encroachment upon or dispossession of temple and religious property.

During the reporting period, HRCBM documented **141 incidents categorized as temple attacks and religious vandalism**, demonstrating the continuing vulnerability of minority religious institutions across multiple districts and divisions.

These incidents are not merely property crimes. For minority communities, temples and other sacred spaces serve as centers of **worship, collective memory, cultural identity, community life, and psychological security**. Attacks on these institutions can therefore create fear and insecurity extending far beyond the immediate physical damage, affecting worshippers, clergy, surrounding families, and the wider religious community.

The representative cases below illustrate recurring forms of attacks documented during the January–June 2026 reporting period. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of all 141 incidents.

Table 4. Representative Cases of Attacks on Temples, Idols, and Religious Institutions, with HRCBM Case Reference Numbers

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
2	1 Jan 2026	Madaripur	Temple vandalism	Radha Krishna temple in Madaripur Sadar reportedly vandalized.
14	5 Jan 2026	Barishal	Temple demolition / land grabbing	Historic Durga temple reportedly demolished and land forcibly occupied.
38	13 Jan 2026	Khulna	Idol vandalism	Saraswati/Ras Puja idol at Shibbati Ras temple vandalized.
52	16 Jan 2026	Cumilla	Historic temple destruction	Approximately 200-year-old Kali temple reportedly demolished with excavator assistance.
81	22 Jan 2026	Gopalganj	Temple arson and idol vandalism	Two Hindu temples reportedly attacked with arson and idol destruction.
125	2 Feb 2026	Kishoreganj	Puja mandap arson	Saraswati Puja temporary mandap reportedly set on fire.
128	3 Feb 2026	Faridpur	Idol vandalism	Kali temple idols reportedly vandalized after a religious event.
130	3 Feb 2026	Jhenaidah	Cremation ground / temple vandalism	Mahashmashan and Kali temple idols reportedly damaged.
183	14 Feb 2026	Sylhet	Temple arson	Gaur-Nitai temple reportedly set on fire; scriptures and religious items burned.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
190	14 Feb 2026	Nilphamari	Idol vandalism	Kali idol reportedly vandalized at cremation-ground temple.
199	17 Feb 2026	Chattogram	Temple arson	Magdeshwari temple reportedly set on fire.
220	23 Feb 2026	Chapainawabganj	Attack on temple	Bricks reportedly thrown at Radhagobinda temple.
May-104	25 May 2026	Nandigram, Bogura	Attack on temple	Attack reportedly involved temple vandalism and idol destruction, attacks on nearby Hindu homes, and physical assaults on local residents, causing widespread fear and insecurity.
June-137	1 June, 2026	Pirojpur	Temple vandalism, arson, and theft	Unidentified individuals reportedly vandalized a Shiva idol at the Kali Temple within the Pirojpur Municipal Crematorium, burned the broken idol, damaged the crematorium gate, and allegedly stole temple donations and cremation materials.
June-210	17 June, 2026	Mokamtala, Bogura	Idol vandalism at three Hindu temples:	Idols at the Kanchagari Mahashmashan Shiva Temple, Kanchagari Shitala Temple, and Kanchagari Kali Temple in Shibganj, Bogura, were reportedly found vandalized; police and local administration inspected the sites and an investigation was initiated.

Figure 9. SL 2: Radha Krishna Temple, Madaripur Sadar — Reported vandalism of a Hindu place of worship, where the idol of Goddess Radha was desecrated and its head severed, raising serious concerns over religious freedom, sacred property protection, and minority security.

Figure 10. Demolition of historic Durga temple, Gournadi, Barishal — HRCBM SL 14.

Note: *Composite image showing the reported demolition of a nearly 150-year-old Durga temple in Sundari Mohalla, Gournadi, Barishal. According to HRCBM documentation, the temple structure was allegedly demolished, its land forcibly occupied, and idols reportedly dumped into the Palardi River, prompting local outrage and serious concerns regarding religious freedom, sacred property protection, and minority security.*

Figure 11. SL 38: Rash Puja idols at Municipal Shibbati Rash Temple, Paikgachha, Khulna, were reportedly vandalized, causing fear and resentment among the local Hindu community.

Note: *The image shows visible damage to Rash Puja idols following reported vandalism at the Municipal Shibbati Rash Temple in Paikgachha Upazila, Khulna District. The incident represents a serious violation of minority religious belief, religious freedom, and the security of places of worship.*

Figure 12. SL 52: Historic Kali Temple, Barura, Cumilla — Composite image showing the aftermath of the reported demolition and desecration of an approximately 200-year-old Kali temple. The image on the right shows the partially unearthed idol of Goddess Kali placed under a makeshift shelter by local devotees after the attack; the image on the left shows members of the local Hindu community protesting the destruction and demanding accountability.

Figure 13. SL 81: Two Hindu temples in Gopalganj were reportedly attacked in an arson attempt, leaving one idol severely burned and another shrine's sacred idols almost completely gutted. The incident reflects a grave assault on minority religious faith, sacred property, and the security of places of worship, deepening fear and insecurity among the local Hindu community.

Figure 14. SL 125: A temporary Saraswati Puja pavilion at Modok Para Sadhu Bari in Karimganj, Kishoreganj, was reportedly set ablaze by miscreants during the early morning hours. The image shows the idol of Goddess Saraswati severely burned, gutted, and defaced, reflecting a grave attack on Hindu religious freedom, sacred worship, and the sentiments of the local minority community.

Figure 15. SL 128: Multiple idols at Malopara Sarbojanin Sri Sri Ma Kali Temple, Faridpur, were reportedly vandalized after a seven-day religious program, with visible defacement, damage, and desecration of sacred figures.

Note: The image above shows the aftermath of a reported nighttime attack on multiple idols at the Malopara Sarbojanin Sri Sri Ma Kali Temple in Bhatilakshmipur, Faridpur city. According to HRCBM documentation, unknown perpetrators entered the temple after the conclusion of a seven-day religious program and vandalized the idols under cover of darkness. The visible defacement and desecration raise serious concerns regarding religious freedom, sacred property protection, and minority security.

Figure 16. SL 183: Sri Sri Gour-Nitai Temple in Tarapur Tea Garden, Sylhet, was reportedly set ablaze, burning the Holy Gita, religious scriptures, and images of Hindu deities kept inside the temple.

***Note:** Composite images showing the aftermath of a reported arson attack at Sri Sri Gour-Nitai Temple in the Tarapur Tea Garden area of Sylhet. Local residents reportedly noticed smoke from inside the temple and brought the fire under control. The fire burned religious scriptures, images of Hindu deities, and sacred materials, raising grave concerns over religious freedom and minority security.*

Figure 17. SL 190: The idol of Goddess Kali at Saballipara Cremation Ground Kali Temple in Nilphamari was reportedly vandalized, causing fear and outrage among the local Hindu community.

Figure 18. SL 199: Magdeshwari Ma Temple, Boalkhali, Chattogram — A reported arson attack targeted the temple premises, with flames visible near the shrine area in this video still. The incident raises serious concerns over the safety of Hindu places of worship, religious freedom, and the vulnerability of minority religious institutions to deliberate acts of intimidation and desecration.

Figure 19. CCTV footage reportedly captured a miscreant throwing stones at the Radhagobinda Temple in Huzrapur, Chapainawabganj, during the night. The image shows the alleged attack in progress and supports concerns regarding deliberate intimidation, attempted damage to a Hindu place of worship, and the vulnerability of minority religious institutions after dark.

Figure 20. Kamulla Hindu Para, Nandigram, Bogura — Aftermath of Reported Nighttime Attack on Temple and Hindu Homes.

Note: *Composite images showing the reported aftermath of a nighttime attack in Kamulla Hindu Para, Nandigram, Bogura, in which a local Hindu temple was allegedly vandalized, sacred idols were damaged or destroyed, and nearby Hindu homes were reportedly attacked. Local accounts also alleged physical assaults on residents. The incident caused widespread fear and insecurity within the affected community and raises serious concerns regarding religious freedom, protection of places of worship, personal security, property rights, and accountability.*

Figure 21. Pirojpur Municipal Crematorium and Kali Temple — Reported Idol Desecration, Arson, and Theft, 1 June 2026.

Note: *Composite images showing the reported aftermath of an early-morning attack at the Kali Temple located within the Pirojpur Municipal Crematorium area. According to HRCBM documentation, unidentified individuals allegedly vandalized a Shiva idol, removed the broken idol from the temple and set it on fire, damaged the crematorium's main gate, stole cash from temple donation box, and looted materials used for cremation rituals. Senior district administration and police officials reportedly visited the site and an investigation was initiated; at the time of HRCBM's report, no official investigation findings or judicial determination were available. The incident raises serious concerns regarding religious freedom, protection of sacred sites, property security, and accountability.*

Figure 22. Kanchagari, Shibganj, Bogura — Reported Vandalism of Idols at Three Hindu Temples, 13 June 2026.

Note: *The image shows the reported destruction of sacred idols following vandalism affecting three Hindu temples in the Kanchagari area of Deuli Union, Shibganj Upazila, Bogura—the Kanchagari Mahashmashan Shiva Temple, Kanchagari Shitala Temple, and Kanchagari Kali Temple. According to HRCBM documentation, the damaged idols were discovered when a devotee arrived for regular morning worship. Police and local administrative officials subsequently visited the affected sites, and an investigation was reportedly underway to identify those responsible. The incident raises serious concerns regarding religious freedom, the security of places of worship and sacred objects, and the safety of the local Hindu community.*

5.2 Land Grabbing, Property Destruction, and Economic Dispossession

A second major recurring pattern documented during the January–June 2026 reporting period involves **land grabbing, forcible occupation, property attacks, destruction of homes and crops, arson, looting, robbery, theft, extortion, and other forms of economic coercion** affecting minority individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

During the reporting period, HRCBM documented **234 incidents categorized as property attacks, land grabbing, arson, and looting**. The underlying registry includes cases involving forcible land occupation and encroachment, attacks on homes and businesses, destruction of agricultural crops and livelihood assets, arson, robbery and theft, looting,

extortion, and pressure that threatened the economic security or continued residence of affected families. The normalized workbook similarly groups such cases where **property, land, livelihood, or economic harm constitutes the principal documented impact**.

In many documented cases, property-related violations were accompanied by **physical violence, threats, intimidation, extortion, or pressure against families attempting to resist dispossession or assert their legal rights**. The January–June registry includes, among other patterns, allegations of forcible occupation of ancestral land, attacks and looting linked to land disputes, destruction of agricultural crops, attacks on minority-owned businesses, armed robbery, major theft, extortion-related economic pressure, and threats of displacement.

This pattern is particularly serious because land and property insecurity can have consequences far beyond the immediate loss of an asset. For many minority families, a home, agricultural plot, shop, livestock, crop, or small business represents **generations of accumulated economic security and the foundation of continued residence within the community**. Destruction or seizure of these assets can lead to loss of income, indebtedness, food insecurity, displacement, and long-term economic dependency.

Where violence or intimidation is used to facilitate land occupation, compel the abandonment of property, prevent the recovery of assets, or deter victims from pursuing legal remedies, economic harm may also become a mechanism of **coercion and displacement**. The cumulative effect can weaken the ability of minority families to remain securely on ancestral land, maintain livelihoods, and resist further pressure.

The representative cases presented below illustrate the recurring intersection of **land dispossession, property destruction, economic coercion, physical intimidation, and inadequate institutional protection** documented across the January–June 2026 incident registry. They are illustrative examples and do not constitute an exhaustive list of the 234 incidents documented within this category.

Table 5. Representative Cases of Land Grabbing, Property Destruction, and Economic Dispossession, Referenced by HRCBM Reference SL Number.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
4	2 Jan 2026	Cox’s Bazar	Land grabbing attempt	Hindu family land reportedly targeted; at least three injured while resisting.
9	4 Jan 2026	Rangpur	Forced land occupation	Minority family’s land reportedly cultivated by a large group without protection from authorities.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
23	6 Jan 2026	Netrokona	Cremation land encroachment	Hindu cremation ground and grazing land reportedly threatened by local influential persons.
43	14 Jan 2026	Bagerhat	Land grabbing and assault	Minority family allegedly attacked over land; elderly couple assaulted.
80	22 Jan 2026	Shariatpur	Land-dispute attack	Poor Hindu family reportedly attacked; several family members injured.
110	30 Jan 2026	Barishal	Forced land occupation	Elderly minority man's inherited land allegedly occupied for house construction.
116	31 Jan 2026	Naogaon	Court-order violation / land grabbing	Hindu family's land reportedly targeted despite pending case and court injunction.
117	31 Jan 2026	Sirajganj	Temple land encroachment	Temple land, trees, and sacred property reportedly damaged or occupied.
119	31 Jan 2026	Kurigram	Forced land occupation	Hindu family's land reportedly occupied and planted despite complaints.
140	5 Feb 2026	Feni	Road and land obstruction	Access road used by Hindu families allegedly blocked through forced construction.
180	13 Feb 2026	Gaibandha	Large-scale land grabbing	Approximately 15 acres reportedly targeted; arson and looting also alleged.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
197	17 Feb 2026	Patuakhali	Post-election land grabbing	Minority property reportedly occupied after election.
214	22 Feb 2026	Patuakhali	Land intimidation	Hindu family reportedly threatened and pressured over land.
May-84	21 May, 2026	Madaripur	Attack and attempted forcible land grabbing	Strong example of **physical violence linked directly to land seizure**; the family reportedly required medical treatment and sought shelter at the UNO office.
May-92	22 May, 2026	Chittagong	Attempted Forcible Land Grabbing and Death Threats	A Hindu family in Uttar Nathpara, Pahartali, alleged that a locally influential group repeatedly attempted to seize their legally owned homestead and subjected them to intimidation and death threats for resisting, prompting the family to seek urgent administrative and law-enforcement protection.
June-148	3 June, 2026	Feni	Land grabbing, alleged false cases, and physical abuse	Particularly powerful because the victim is a **90-year-old man** alleging pressure over ancestral property, showing how land dispossession intersects with vulnerability and alleged misuse of legal processes.
June-236	19 June, 2026	Puthia, Rajshahi	Attack on homes, vandalism, looting, and land dispute	One of the strongest examples of **economic dispossession**: homes and tube wells were reportedly destroyed and cash and gold allegedly looted, affecting two ethnic-minority families.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
June-248	20 June, 2026	Pagla Bazar area of Narayanganj	Temple-land grabbing and alleged defiance of High Court injunction	Land belonging to a century-old Hindu temple in Pagla Bazar, Narayanganj, reportedly faced attempted forcible occupation and construction despite court-ordered restrictions on construction and an alleged High Court injunction. Local residents also reported that immediate administrative intervention was not forthcoming, raising concerns regarding protection of religious property and enforcement of judicial orders.
June-261	22 June, 2026	Khulna	Alleged Land Grabbing in Defiance of Court Stay Order	Minority bank officer Dipankar alleged that his family land in Dumuria was occupied or subjected to attempted occupation despite a court order maintaining the status quo. The allegation was made against **Abdur Rob Akunji, Convener of the Raghunathpur Union BNP**, who, in a recorded media statement, reportedly questioned the court's understanding of the legality of the matter and asserted that he was entitled to act according to his own view of the public interest in taking control of the property. The case raises serious concerns regarding respect for judicial orders, property rights, and the rule of law.
June-266	23 June, 2026	Bandarban	Alleged Land Grabbing, Attempted Arson, and Attacks	Members of the Indigenous Tripura community in Naziram Tripura Para, Lama, alleged attempts to forcibly occupy ancestral and traditionally

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
			Against Indigenous Tripura Community	possessed land, attempted arson, and physical attacks on local residents. Indigenous students and community members subsequently organized a protest in Bandarban town demanding protection of land rights, security, investigation, and accountability.
June-312	30 June, 2026	Natore	Alleged Systematic Land Grabbing, Intimidation, and Forced Dispossession of Minority Hindu Families	Several minority Hindu families in Nandikuja, Bagatipara, alleged that an influential individual had progressively taken control of approximately 60 decimals of their land over nearly three decades through coercion, intimidation, and abuse of influence, with permanent structures, including a three-story building, reportedly constructed on disputed property. The affected families alleged threats and fear of physical violence when resisting the occupation. A written complaint was submitted to Bagatipara Model Police Station, while the accused denied the allegations.

Figure 23. Attempted land grab targeting a Hindu family near a BGB camp in Cox's Bazar — video grab showing police inspecting the reported incident site after the attack. Four members of the minority family were reportedly injured while resisting the alleged forcible occupation of their land.

Figure 24. SL 9 (video grab): A large group of individuals reportedly occupied a paddy field belonging to a minority family in Pirganj, Rangpur. The family alleged that 100–150 people entered and cultivated the land by force, while claiming the family had no right to the property because of their minority identity. The incident raises serious concerns regarding minority land rights, administrative inaction, and economic dispossession.

Figure 25. SL 23 (video grab): A large group of people reportedly attacked members of the local Hindu minority community at Galgoli Vita, Mohanganj, Netrokona, after the community objected to the alleged illegal seizure of their ancestral cremation ground and adjoining government grazing land. The incident reflects a grave pattern in which minority communities face violence not only over homes and livelihoods, but even when defending sacred cremation spaces tied to funeral rites, dignity, and religious continuity.

Figure 26. SL 80: A Hindu family in Ramvadrpur Village, Bhedarganj, Shariatpur, was reportedly attacked following a land-related dispute, leaving at least six people injured, including women and elderly family members. The image shows one of the severely injured minority women receiving treatment at Bhedarganj Upazila Health Complex. According to HRCBM documentation, the victims later reported continuing threats of arson against Hindu homes in the area, deepening fear and insecurity among local minority families.

বরাবর,
অফিসার ইনচার্জ
বানারীপাড়া থানা
বরিশাল জেলা।

আবেদন ট্র্যাকিং নং: QSYHSS
তারিখ: ২৫/০১/২০২৬

বিষয় : সাধারণ ডায়েরী করার আবেদন প্রসঙ্গে।

জনাব,
আমি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী সুহাস চন্দ্র শীল (৬৫), পিতা: বীরেন্দ্র নাথ শীল , মাতা : শান্তি লতা , জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র নং : ৫৯৮৪৩৫১৮০৮ ,ঠিকানা(স্থায়ী) - গ্রাম - , থানা -বানারী পাড়া, জেলা -বরিশাল ও ঠিকানা(বর্তমান)-৪৩/১ দক্ষিণ কমলাপুর, গ্রাম-দক্ষিন কমলাপুর কবরস্থান পশ্চি, ইউনিয়ন/ওয়ার্ড-ওয়ার্ড নং-৮ , থানা-মতিঝিল, জেলা-ঢাকা , মোবাইল নং -০১৭৭৮৮৯৮৬৭৯।

বরাবর অফিসার ইনচার্জ বানারীপাড়া থানা বরিশাল। বিষয়: জমি জোরপূর্বক দখল, হুমকি ও ভয়ভীতি প্রদর্শনের বিষয়ে সাধারণ ডায়েরি লিপিবদ্ধকরণ প্রসঙ্গে। মহোদয়, বিনীত নিবেদন এই যে, আমি সুহাস চন্দ্র শীল, পিতা৺বীরেন্দ্র নাথ শীল সাঃ বড়চাউলাকাটি গ্রাম, ৯নং ডাকঘর ইউনিয়ন, থানা: বানারীপাড়া, জেলা: বরিশাল। আমি জন্মসূত্রে জমির মালিক এবং উক্ত জমি দীর্ঘদিন যাবৎ শান্তিপূর্ণভাবে ভোগদখল করে আসছি। এই মর্মে জানাইতেছি যে, ১২/০১/২০২৬ ইং তারিখ দুপুর আনুমানিক ২:০০ ঘটিকার সময় মৃত ইউনুস ফকিরের ছেলে মোহাঃ ফকির ও তার মা স্থানীয় কিছু সন্ত্রাসী প্রকৃতির লোকজনকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে জোরপূর্বক আমার মালিকানাধীন জুমির জমি,বড়ভিটা,বউবাড়ি ভিটা,বাশতলা জমি দখল করে। তারা উক্ত জমিতে মাটি কেটে ও জমি কুপিয়ে ব্যাপক ক্ষতিসাধন করে। এ সময় আমি তাদেরকে বৈধ কাগজপত্র নিয়ে বসার জন্য বললে তারা আমাকে অকথ্য ভাষায় গালাগালি করে শব্দ প্রাণনাশসহ বিভিন্ন ধরনের হুমকি ও ভয়ভীতি প্রদর্শন করে। তারা ভবিষ্যতে আরও ক্ষতি করবে বলিয়া হুমকি প্রদান করে। উক্ত ঘটনায় আমি ও আমার পরিবারের সদস্যরা চরম আতঙ্ক ও নিরাপত্তাহীনতার মধ্যে দিন যাপন করিতেছি। অতএব মহোদয়ের শিকট সবিনয় আবেদন, উপরোক্ত ঘটনার বিষয়ে সাধারণ ডায়েরি হিসেবে লিপিবদ্ধ করিয়া ভবিষ্যতের জন্য আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের সুযোগ রাখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করিবেন। বিনীত নিবেদক নাম: সুহাস চন্দ্র শীল মোবাইল নং০১৭৭৮৮৯৮৬৭৯ তারিখ:২৫/০১/২০২৬ শমতাবস্থায়, উপরোক্ত বিষয়টি ভবিষ্যতের জন্য সাধারন ডাইরীভূক্ত করিয়া রাখা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।
অতএব, উপরোক্ত বিষয়টি আপনার থানায় সাধারন ডাইরীভূক্ত করিতে জনমবে মর্জি হয়।

Draft

বিনীত
সুহাস চন্দ্র শীল
মোবাইল-০১৭৭৮৮৯৮৬৭৯
ইমেইল-happy0193@gmail.com

Figure 27. SL 110: Police complaint submitted by Subhash Chandra Shil, a 65-year-old Hindu minority resident of Banaripara, Barishal, alleging forcible occupation of his inherited land, intimidation, and threats connected to the construction of a house on disputed property. The complaint reflects a recurring pattern of land-related pressure against minority families, where property insecurity, threats, and weak enforcement create prolonged fear and vulnerability.

Figure 28. SL 116 (video grab): Land grabbing reportedly in progress in Nazipur Municipality, Porsha Upazila, Naogaon, where a Hindu minority family alleges that influential individuals attempted to forcibly occupy their land despite an ongoing legal dispute and court restrictions. The image illustrates a recurring pattern of minority land insecurity, where vulnerable families are pressured through force, intimidation, and disregard for legal protections.

Figure 29. SL 117: Sri Sri Shyam Sundar Dev Thakur Shiva Temple, Tarash, Sirajganj — Influential local Md. Abdul Mannan is alleged to have forcibly occupied portions of the temple's 3.29-acre land and cut down trees within the temple premises, including two Tal trees, three Eucalyptus trees, and branches of a century-old Banyan tree. The incident reflects a recurring pattern of encroachment on minority religious property, where sacred land, temple assets, and community heritage are placed under pressure through local influence and alleged illegal occupation.

Figure 30. SL 119: Ulipur, Kurigram — Monmohon Ray and his Hindu minority family alleged that approximately 135 decimals of their purchased and inherited land in Hokdanga Bharatpara were forcibly occupied by neighbors, who planted Boro paddy seedlings on the disputed land. Despite filing a written complaint with the police, the family reported that no effective administrative action was taken for over a week, while they continued to face threats, intimidation, and psychological pressure.

Figure 31. SL 180 (video grab): Alleged attack in progress during a land-grabbing incident in Lakshmipur Village, Sadullapur, Gaibandha, where approximately 15 acres of land belonging to minority community member Nikhil Chowdhury were reportedly targeted for forcible occupation. HRCBM documentation records allegations of intimidation, assault, arson, and looting by Shamim and his associates, reflecting a grave pattern of minority land dispossession, economic coercion, and insecurity faced by vulnerable rural families.

Figure 32. SL 197 (video grab): Alleged post-election land grabbing of minority-owned property at Sarkar Bari near Alipura Bazar, Bauphal, Patuakhali. The image shows a structure reportedly erected on land belonging to a Sanatan Hindu family after the property was forcibly occupied, allegedly in violation of a court order and while local administration was preoccupied with election-related duties. The incident raises serious concerns over minority land rights, displacement pressure, disregard for judicial protection, and post-election insecurity affecting vulnerable Hindu families.

Figure 33. SL 214: Gopal Majhi, a member of a Hindu minority family from Morichbunia Union, Patuakhali Sadar, appeals for protection during a press conference at the Patuakhali Press Club after alleging land grabbing, armed intimidation, and threats of forced displacement. According to his statement, locally influential individuals attempted to seize approximately 40 decimals of family land, threatened the household with locally made weapons, obstructed his children's schooling, and pressured the family to leave the country. The case reflects a serious pattern of minority land insecurity, intimidation, and denial of equal protection under law.

Figure 34. SL May- 84: Shibchar, Madaripur — Member of Affected Hindu Family Describing the Reported Assault and Attempted Land Grabbing, 21 May 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows a member of the affected Hindu family recounting the family's ordeal following an alleged attack connected to an attempted forcible occupation of their land in the Dattapara and Char Bachamara areas of Shibchar Upazila, Madaripur. According to HRCBM documentation, family members were allegedly assaulted while attempting to protect their land, sought medical treatment following the incident, and later took shelter at the office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) because of continuing security concerns. Police subsequently reportedly intervened and brought the immediate situation under control. The case raises serious concerns regarding physical security, land and property rights, protection from retaliation, and access to timely administrative and law-enforcement protection.*

Figure 35. SL May- 92: Uttar Nathpara, Pahartali, Chattogram — Reported Activity at Disputed Land During Alleged Attempted Forcible Occupation.

Note: *The image reportedly shows activity on the disputed property belonging to the affected Hindu family in Uttar Nathpara, Pahartali, Chattogram. Individuals can be seen at*

the site, including a person appearing to carry out ground excavation or digging. According to the victim family's allegations, the activity formed part of an attempt to take control of the property, potentially by installing posts or preparing the site for construction. The precise purpose of the excavation cannot be independently established from the image alone. HRCBM documented allegations that the family had faced prolonged intimidation and death threats while resisting the attempted occupation of their land, raising serious concerns regarding property rights, personal security, and access to effective law-enforcement protection.

Figure 36. SL 148: Fulgazi, Feni — Elderly Minority Resident Describing Alleged Land Grabbing, Harassment Through False Cases, and Physical Abuse, 3 June 2026.

Note: *The video still reportedly shows 90-year-old Sunil Chandra Sarkar of South Anandapur village, Fulgazi Upazila, Feni, describing his family's ordeal in connection with a longstanding dispute over ancestral property. According to HRCBM documentation, Mr. Sarkar alleged that his ancestral land had been subjected to attempted or unlawful occupation and that he and his family faced harassment through allegedly false cases as well as physical abuse. He reportedly presented these allegations in the presence of family members and sought redress and protection. At the time of HRCBM's documentation, no final police investigation report or judicial determination concerning the allegations had been made public. The case raises serious concerns regarding the security and dignity of elderly minority citizens, protection of ancestral property, alleged misuse of legal proceedings as a form of harassment, and access to impartial investigation and effective remedies.*

Figure 37. SL June-236: Puthia, Rajshahi — Ethnic Minority Families Survey Reported Destruction Following Attack, Vandalism, and Looting Linked to a Land Dispute, 19 June 2026.

Note: *The image shows members of two ethnic minority families surveying the reported destruction of their homes in Dhokrakul village, Puthia Upazila, Rajshahi. According to HRCBM documentation, the affected families alleged that a group entered their homestead on 12 June 2026 in connection with a longstanding land dispute and vandalized residential structures, tin roofs, fencing, a tube well, and other property. Cash and gold ornaments were also reportedly looted, while family members alleged that they were subjected to intimidation and death threats. One family member stated that a daughter with a disability who was present at the home was left particularly frightened during the attack. The families further reported that a criminal case was recorded by police six days after the incident and that they continued to live in insecurity. The case raises serious concerns regarding the protection of ethnic minority communities, land and housing security, the safety of persons with disabilities, timely access to law-enforcement protection, and effective accountability.*

Figure 38. SL June-248: Pagla Bazar, Narayanganj — Century-Old Hindu Temple, Reported Construction Activity on the Temple Land, and Judicial Orders Restricting Construction.

Note: *Composite images documenting the dispute concerning land belonging to a century-old Hindu temple in the Pagla Bazar area of Narayanganj. The images include the temple and its sacred interior, reported construction activity immediately adjacent to or on the disputed property, a court notice relating to suspension of construction, and a prominently displayed public notice referring to judicial restrictions concerning the land. According to HRCBM documentation, local residents alleged that attempts to occupy the temple property and continue construction persisted despite ongoing court proceedings and judicial orders restricting such activity. The case raises serious concerns regarding the protection of religious property, preservation of a longstanding place of worship, effective enforcement of court orders, and the rule of law.*

Figure 39. SL June-261: Dumuria, Khulna — BNP Leader Abdur Rob Akunji Responding to Media Amid Allegations of Land Occupation in Defiance of a Court Stay Order, 22 June 2026.

Note: *The video still reportedly shows* ***Abdur Rob Akunji, Convener of the Raghunathpur Union BNP****, giving a media statement concerning disputed land belonging to minority bank officer Dipankar in Dumuria, Khulna. According to HRCBM documentation, a court had reportedly ordered maintenance of the status quo over the property, while the victim alleged that occupation or interference with the land continued despite the judicial order. In his recorded statement to the media, Abdur Rob Akunji reportedly* ***questioned the court's understanding of the legality of the matter and asserted, in substance, that he could act according to his own understanding of the public interest in asserting control over the property****. The statement, viewed in the context of an existing court order, raises serious concerns regarding respect for judicial authority, enforcement of court-ordered protection, the rule of law, and the ability of minority property owners to secure effective legal remedies. The underlying ownership dispute and allegations remain subject to legal determination.*

Figure 40. SL June-266: Bandarban — Indigenous Tripura Community Members and Students Protest Alleged Land Grabbing, Attempted Arson, and Attacks in Naziram Tripura Para, 23 June 2026.

Note: *The image shows Indigenous Tripura community members, students, and supporters participating in a protest in Bandarban town following allegations of forcible occupation of ancestral and traditionally possessed land, attempted arson, and physical attacks against residents of Naziram Tripura Para in Gajalia Union, Lama Upazila. According to HRCBM documentation, the demonstration proceeded through Bandarban town and concluded with a rally near the Press Club, where participants called for protection of Indigenous land rights, security for affected families, impartial investigation, and accountability. The case raises serious concerns regarding Indigenous peoples' land and property rights, physical security, protection from retaliation, cultural continuity, and access to effective legal and administrative remedies.*

Figure 41. SL June-312: Bagatipara, Natore — Paritosh Sutradhar, an Affected Minority Hindu Resident, Describes to Media the Alleged Long-Term Forcible Occupation of Land Belonging to Local Hindu Families, 30 June 2026.

Note: *The video still reportedly shows* ***Paritosh Sutradhar, one of the affected minority Hindu residents of the Nandikuja area in Bagatipara, Natore****, speaking to the media and describing the ordeal faced by local Hindu families whose land was allegedly progressively taken over through coercion, intimidation, and the influence of a locally powerful individual. According to HRCBM documentation, affected families alleged that approximately 60 decimals of land belonging to multiple minority households had come under disputed occupation over a period of nearly three decades and that permanent structures, including a three-story building, were constructed on portions of the disputed property. The families further alleged that those who resisted or protested faced intimidation and threats of violence. HRCBM's report identifies* ***Nirmal Kumar Sutradhar as the primary complainant****, who submitted a written complaint to Bagatipara Model Police Station on 23 June 2026; the accused denied the allegations, and the matter remained subject to*

investigation. The case raises serious concerns regarding minority land and property rights, protection from coercive dispossession and intimidation, personal security, and access to timely and effective legal remedies.

5.3 Gender-Based Violence, Abduction, and Coercive Marriage or Conversion Concerns

A particularly grave pattern documented during January–June 2026 involves sexual and gender-based violence affecting minority women and girls, including rape, attempted rape, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, abduction-related concerns, and allegations involving coercive marriage or religious conversion. **HRCBM documented 41 incidents categorized as sexual violence, rape, or gang rape during the reporting period.** This figure represents a verified minimum within the registry and should not be interpreted as reflecting the full scale of such violence.

Several documented cases involved particularly vulnerable victims, including young children, school-age girls, students, Indigenous and ethnic minority girls, women with disabilities, and widowed women. Allegations included repeated sexual abuse of children, rape and attempted rape, sexual harassment by teachers or persons in positions of authority, and attempts to suppress allegations through informal settlements, financial inducements, administrative compromise, or other forms of pressure. These cases raise serious human-rights concerns relating to bodily autonomy, child protection, freedom from sexual and gender-based violence, access to justice, and equal protection under the law.

A particularly disturbing feature of the incidents documented during May and June 2026 was the significant number involving children and school-age girls. Several reported victims were very young children or primary- and secondary-school students, while some faced intersecting vulnerabilities arising from Indigenous or ethnic-minority identity and disability. The documented cases included allegations of rape, repeated sexual abuse, attempted rape, sexual harassment, and abuse by individuals occupying positions of trust or authority, including teachers. In several instances, the alleged circumstances also raised concerns regarding attempts to suppress complaints through informal settlements, financial inducements, written undertakings, or other mechanisms outside a transparent investigative and judicial process.

The concentration of cases involving children during May and June raises heightened child-protection concerns. Children who experience sexual violence may face not only immediate physical and psychological harm but also long-term consequences for education, health, family relationships, social participation, and personal security. Minority and Indigenous children may face additional barriers when seeking protection,

particularly where families fear retaliation, social stigma, economic repercussions, or unequal treatment by institutions. Cases involving children with disabilities present further concerns regarding accessibility of reporting mechanisms, communication support, medical care, and the capacity of institutions to provide appropriate protection.

These incidents underscore the need for **child-sensitive investigative procedures, confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms, immediate medical and psychosocial support, protection from retaliation, preservation of evidence, and prompt access to justice**. Authorities and educational institutions must ensure that allegations involving minors are addressed through appropriate legal and protective mechanisms rather than informal compromise or pressure upon the victim or family. To safeguard the privacy and dignity of child survivors, HRCBM has limited unnecessary identifying information in this section and presents only selected representative cases rather than reproducing the full registry of incidents involving minors.

HRCBM also documented cases raising concerns about coercion associated with marriage or religious conversion, including allegations of pressure to change religion, conversion connected to intimate or marital relationships followed by abuse or economic exploitation, and other circumstances in which questions arise regarding whether consent was genuinely free and informed. Such cases require careful, individualized investigation and should not be classified as forced conversion or coercive marriage without sufficient evidence. Where coercion, threats, deception, exploitation, abuse of vulnerability, or economic pressure are credibly alleged, however, authorities have a responsibility to investigate promptly, independently, and impartially.

Missing-person or abduction cases involving women and girls should likewise not automatically be classified as sexual violence, trafficking, forced marriage, or forced conversion unless supported by evidence. Nevertheless, such cases may present serious protection concerns, particularly where the missing person is a minor or where there are credible allegations of coercion, sexual exploitation, trafficking, pressure relating to marriage or religion, or circumstances indicating heightened vulnerability. The absence of immediate evidence establishing sexual violence should therefore not result in the underlying protection concerns being disregarded.

HRCBM further notes that sexual and gender-based violence affecting minority women and girls is likely **substantially underreported**. Social stigma, fear of retaliation, concerns regarding family reputation, community pressure, economic dependence, threats from alleged perpetrators, and lack of confidence in law-enforcement or judicial remedies may discourage victims and families from reporting abuse. In cases involving children, families may face additional pressure to remain silent because of concerns about the child's future, social ostracism, marriage prospects, or exposure of the victim's identity.

In some documented cases, allegations were also raised regarding attempts to resolve serious sexual offences through informal arbitration, private settlement, financial

inducements, written undertakings, or other forms of compromise rather than through an effective criminal investigation. Such practices, where they interfere with lawful investigation or place pressure upon victims and their families, may further weaken accountability and reinforce an environment in which survivors perceive formal justice mechanisms as inaccessible or ineffective.

The institutional dimension of these cases is particularly significant. Allegations involving teachers or other persons in positions of authority raise concerns not only about the conduct of the individual accused but also about the responsibility of educational institutions and public authorities to provide a safe environment, respond promptly to complaints, protect complainants from retaliation, and ensure that institutional influence is not used to suppress or minimize serious allegations. Where a minority student is additionally subjected to communal stigmatization, religious labeling, threats concerning her education, or pressure linked to her identity, the harm may extend beyond gender-based violence into discrimination, intimidation, and denial of equal protection.

The documented incidents should therefore be understood as the visible portion of a potentially broader pattern of vulnerability. For minority and Indigenous women and girls, gender may intersect with religious or ethnic identity, age, disability, poverty, educational dependency, and unequal access to institutional protection. These intersecting vulnerabilities can increase exposure to violence while simultaneously creating additional barriers to reporting, protection, investigation, and justice.

The cases documented during May and June also demonstrate that gender-based violence within minority communities cannot be viewed solely through the lens of individual criminal conduct. Where alleged perpetrators occupy positions of authority, where victims are minors or otherwise vulnerable, where families are pressured toward informal settlements, or where institutions fail to respond adequately, the resulting harm may be compounded by weaknesses in protection and accountability mechanisms. Effective prevention therefore requires not only prosecution where criminal responsibility is established, but also institutional reforms capable of protecting victims before, during, and after the justice process.

These incidents must be treated with particular urgency. They are not merely isolated allegations of criminal misconduct; taken together, they highlight the need for stronger victim protection, child-sensitive investigative procedures, confidential reporting mechanisms, independent institutional inquiries, prompt and impartial criminal investigations, protection from retaliation, medical and psychosocial assistance, and effective prosecution where evidence establishes criminal responsibility.

The following table presents selected representative cases documented throughout the January–June 2026 reporting period and is not intended to provide an exhaustive listing of all 41 incidents categorized as sexual violence, rape, or gang rape. For January through April, the table retains a broader selection of representative cases previously identified by

HRCBM. **For May and June, HRCBM applied an additional level of selectivity because a substantial proportion of the documented gender-based violence cases involved minor girls, including very young children and school-age students**. Rather than reproducing numerous similar cases involving children, HRCBM has included only a limited number of representative May–June incidents that illustrate particularly significant patterns, including child sexual violence, the heightened vulnerability of Indigenous and minority girls, disability-related vulnerability, alleged abuse by persons in positions of trust or authority, sexual harassment in educational settings, and reported attempts to suppress allegations through informal settlements, financial inducements, administrative compromise, or institutional inaction. This selective presentation is intended to protect the dignity and privacy of child survivors and avoid unnecessary repetition; it should not be interpreted as diminishing the seriousness or prevalence of the additional cases recorded in HRCBM's underlying registry.

Table 6. Representative Cases of Gender-Based Violence, Abduction, Coercive Marriage, and Forced Conversion Concerns Affecting Minority Women and Girls, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
1	1 Jan 2026	Satkhira	Attempted sexual violence	Multiple Hindu girls reportedly targeted for assault and attempted rape.
6	3 Jan 2026	Cumilla	Sexual exploitation concern	Minor girl reportedly threatened with sale/exploitation and abused by family members.
41	14 Jan 2026	Khulna	Attempted rape	Hindu woman reportedly targeted by local elected official.
84	22 Jan 2026	Barguna	Rape threat and assault	Minority family allegedly beaten and threatened with rape.
99	26 Jan 2026	Joypurhat	Sexual harassment and attack	Hindu woman reportedly sexually harassed; later family home attacked.
103	27 Jan 2026	Noakhali	Sexual harassment	Hindu girls reportedly harassed at religious event.
143	5 Feb 2026	Manikganj	Coercive marriage / conversion concern	Hindu schoolgirl reportedly targeted through forged birth certificate and forced marriage attempt.
164	10 Feb 2026	Patuakhali	Kidnapping	Hindu college student reportedly abducted at gunpoint.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
207	21 Feb 2026	Sylhet	Forced abduction	Hindu college student reportedly abducted while going to college.
213	22 Feb 2026	Gazipur / Dhaka route	Gang rape	Married minority woman reportedly gang-raped in public transport.
215	22 Feb 2026	Jashore	Abduction	Ninth-grade student reportedly lured or abducted near school.
219	23 Feb 2026	Bhola	Gang rape	Speech-impaired Hindu woman reportedly gang-raped after attending kirtan.
May-24	7 May, 2026	Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST)	Sexual Harassment, Alleged Administrative Suppression, and Communal Harassment	A Hindu female student at Jessore University of Science and Technology (JUST) alleged that EST teacher **Monirul Islam** sexually harassed her during an academic study tour. According to HRCBM documentation, the university administration allegedly addressed the matter through a written undertaking (*muchaleka*) rather than a formal investigation or visible disciplinary action. The student was subsequently reportedly subjected to intimidation, threats concerning her academic future, and communal stigmatization through alleged attempts to label her as associated with “ISKCON.” The case raises serious concerns regarding student safety, institutional accountability, protection from retaliation, and the intersection of gender-based and religious-minority harassment.
June-240	19 June, 2026	Lalmonirhat	Allegation of Rape, Abuse of Authority and Trust	In Aditmari Upazila of Lalmonirhat district, an English teacher named Shanto from Aditmari G.S. School stands accused of raping a ninth-grade Hindu female student. Following the incident, the accused reportedly attempted to suppress the matter and

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				obstruct the judicial process through financial offers and an out-of-court settlement, sparking widespread local outrage and urgent demands for an impartial investigation.

Figure 42. SL 1 (video grab): Hindu girls and young women in Shyamnagar, Satkhira, are reportedly seen screaming and trying to hold a door shut as alleged attackers attempt to break in during a reported organized assault and attempted sexual violence incident. According to HRCBM documentation, police later arrived and rescued the victims, but no immediate arrests were reportedly made, intensifying fear, trauma, and insecurity among the affected families and the local Hindu community.

Figure 43. SL 41: The alleged accused, Union Parishad member Md. Alamgir Hossain, is reportedly seen after being caught by local residents in Maheshwaripur Union, Ward No. 04, Koyra, Khulna, and handed over to police following an alleged attempted rape of a Hindu woman. According to HRCBM documentation, the accused allegedly lured the victim under the pretext of providing a VGD card before attempting to sexually assault her. The incident sparked local outrage and protests, raising serious concerns over abuse of public position, exploitation of vulnerable minority women, and gender-based violence.

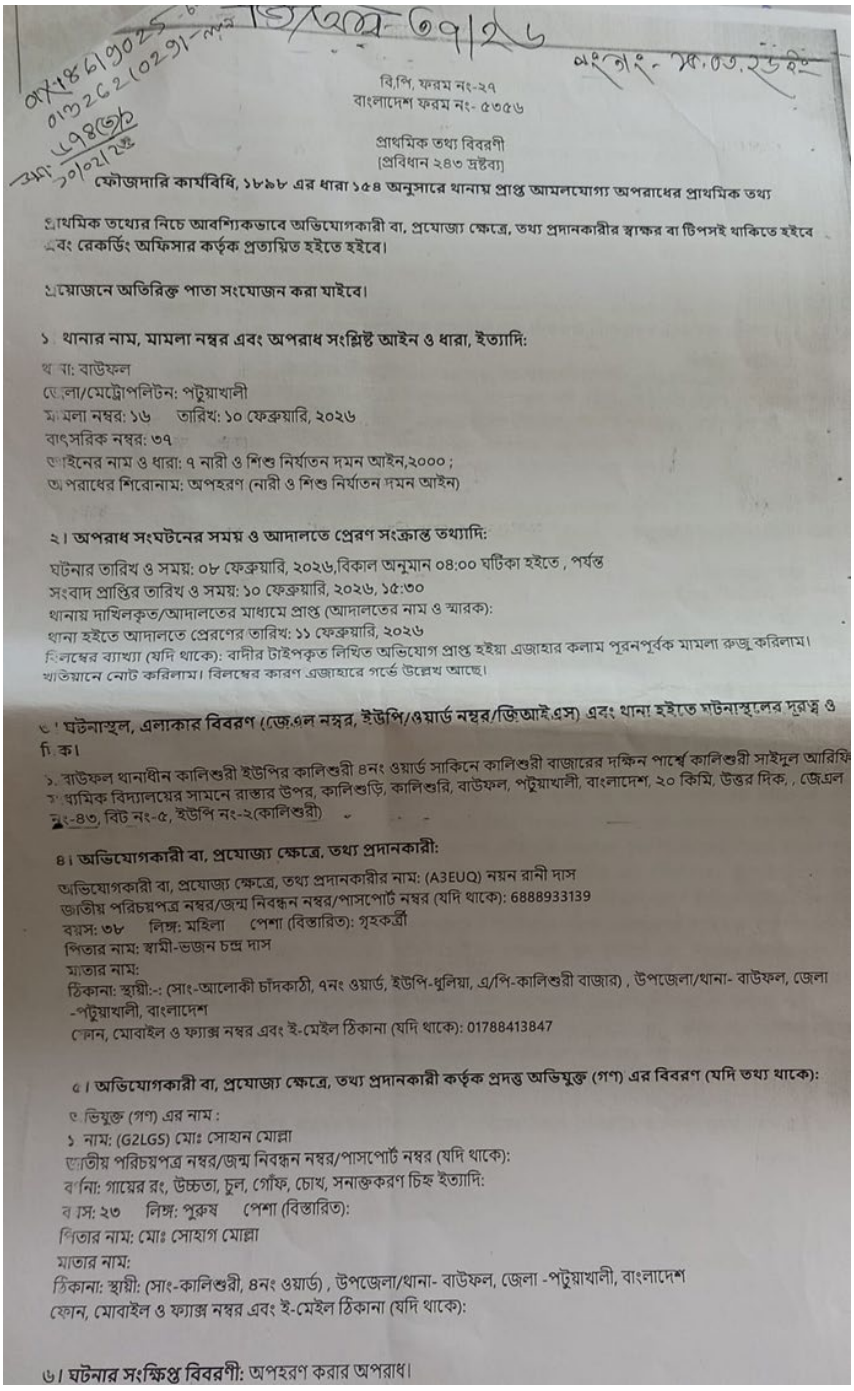
Figure 44. SL 84 (video grab): Alleged assault on members of a Hindu minority family in Rupdhan, Kakchira Union, Patharghata, Barguna. The image reportedly shows accused BNP leader Idris Hawlader attacking women from Moni Mondal's family after a land-related dispute, during which the family also alleged rape threats, physical violence, and intimidation. The incident raises serious concerns over violence against minority women, land-linked coercion, public intimidation, and the security of Hindu families in rural Bangladesh.

Figure 45. SL 99: Members of a Hindu minority family in Hatshekha Hindu Para, Kalai, Joypurhat, stand beside their damaged home after a reported attack following sexual harassment of Ranjana Barman. According to HRCBM documentation, the victim was allegedly harassed and physically pulled by the accused while collecting cow-dung fuel near her home; later that night, the accused reportedly returned with 11–12 others, vandalized the family's house, damaged tin fencing and roofing, and issued threats. The incident reflects the heightened vulnerability of minority women, retaliatory violence against victims, and insecurity faced by Hindu families seeking justice.

Figure 46. SL 103: Alleged accused Md. Sohel was reportedly caught by members of the local Sanatani community and handed over to police after allegations of sexual harassment and obscene behavior toward Hindu girls during a Namyajna religious event at Ram Thakur Ashram in Maijdee Bazar, Noakhali. The incident raises serious concerns over the safety of minority women and girls during religious gatherings, the need for preventive security at Hindu events, and timely legal action against gender-based harassment.

Figure 47. SL 43/143: The mother of a ninth-grade Hindu schoolgirl from Manikganj speaks at a press conference, alleging that her minor daughter was abducted, forcibly converted, and married using a forged birth certificate. According to the family, despite concerns over the girl's minor status, coercion, and safety, the court reportedly ordered the child to be returned to the alleged abductor/accused, raising grave concerns over child protection, freedom of religion or belief, gender-based coercion, and access to justice for minority families.

Note: ***HRCBM has documented similar cases in which minority families allege that abducted or coerced minor girls were not adequately protected by law-enforcement or judicial processes. When courts fail to fully examine age, consent, coercion, forged documents, and religious conversion concerns, families perceive the justice system as enabling perpetrators rather than protecting vulnerable children. This pattern raises urgent concerns regarding child protection, minority women's rights, and equal access to justice.***



বি.পি, ফরম নং-২৭
বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং- ৫৩৫৬

প্রাথমিক তথ্য বিবরণী
[প্রবিধান ২৪৩ দ্রষ্টব্য]

ফৌজদারি কার্যবিধি, ১৮৯৮ এর ধারা ১৫৪ অনুসারে থানায় প্রাপ্ত আমলযোগ্য অপরাধের প্রাথমিক তথ্য

প্রাথমিক তথ্যের নিচে আবশ্যিকভাবে অভিযোগকারী বা, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে, তথ্য প্রদানকারীর স্বাক্ষর বা টিপসই থাকিতে হইবে এবং রেকর্ডিং অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রত্যয়িত হইতে হইবে।

প্রয়োজনে অতিরিক্ত পাতা সংযোজন করা যাইবে।

১। থানার নাম, মামলা নম্বর এবং অপরাধ সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন ও ধারা, ইত্যাদি:

থানা: বাউফল
জেলা/মেট্রোপলিটন: পটুয়াখালী
মামলা নম্বর: ১৬ তারিখ: ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৬
বাৎসরিক নম্বর: ৩৭
আইনের নাম ও ধারা: ৭ নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন আইন,২০০০ ;
অপরাধের শিরোনাম: অপহরণ (নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন আইন)

২। অপরাধ সংঘটনের সময় ও আদালতে প্রেরণ সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি:

ঘটনার তারিখ ও সময়: ০৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৬,বিকাল অনুমান ০৪:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে , পর্যন্ত
সংবাদ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ ও সময়: ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৬, ১৫:৩০
থানায় দাখিলকৃত/আদালতের মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত (আদালতের নাম ও স্মারক):
থানা হইতে আদালতে প্রেরণের তারিখ: ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৬
বিলম্বের ব্যাখ্যা (যদি থাকে): বাদীর টাইপকৃত লিখিত অভিযোগ প্রাপ্ত হইয়া এজাহার কলাম পূরনপূর্বক মামলা রুজু করিলাম। খাতিয়ানে নোট করিলাম। বিলম্বের কারণ এজাহারে গর্ভে উল্লেখ আছে।

৩। ঘটনাস্থল, এলাকার বিবরণ (জে.এল নম্বর, ইউপি/ওয়ার্ড নম্বর/জিআইএস) এবং থানা হইতে ঘটনাস্থলের দূরত্ব ও দিক।

১. বাউফল থানাধীন কালিশুরী ইউপির কালিশুরী ৪নং ওয়ার্ড সাকিনে কালিশুরী বাজারের দক্ষিন পার্শ্বে কালিশুরী সাইদুল আরিফি মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের সামনে রাস্তার উপর, কালিশুড়ি, কালিশুরি, বাউফল, পটুয়াখালী, বাংলাদেশ, ২০ কিমি, উত্তর দিক, , জে.এল নং-৪৩, বিট নং-৫, ইউপি নং-২(কালিশুরী)

৪। অভিযোগকারী বা, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে, তথ্য প্রদানকারী:

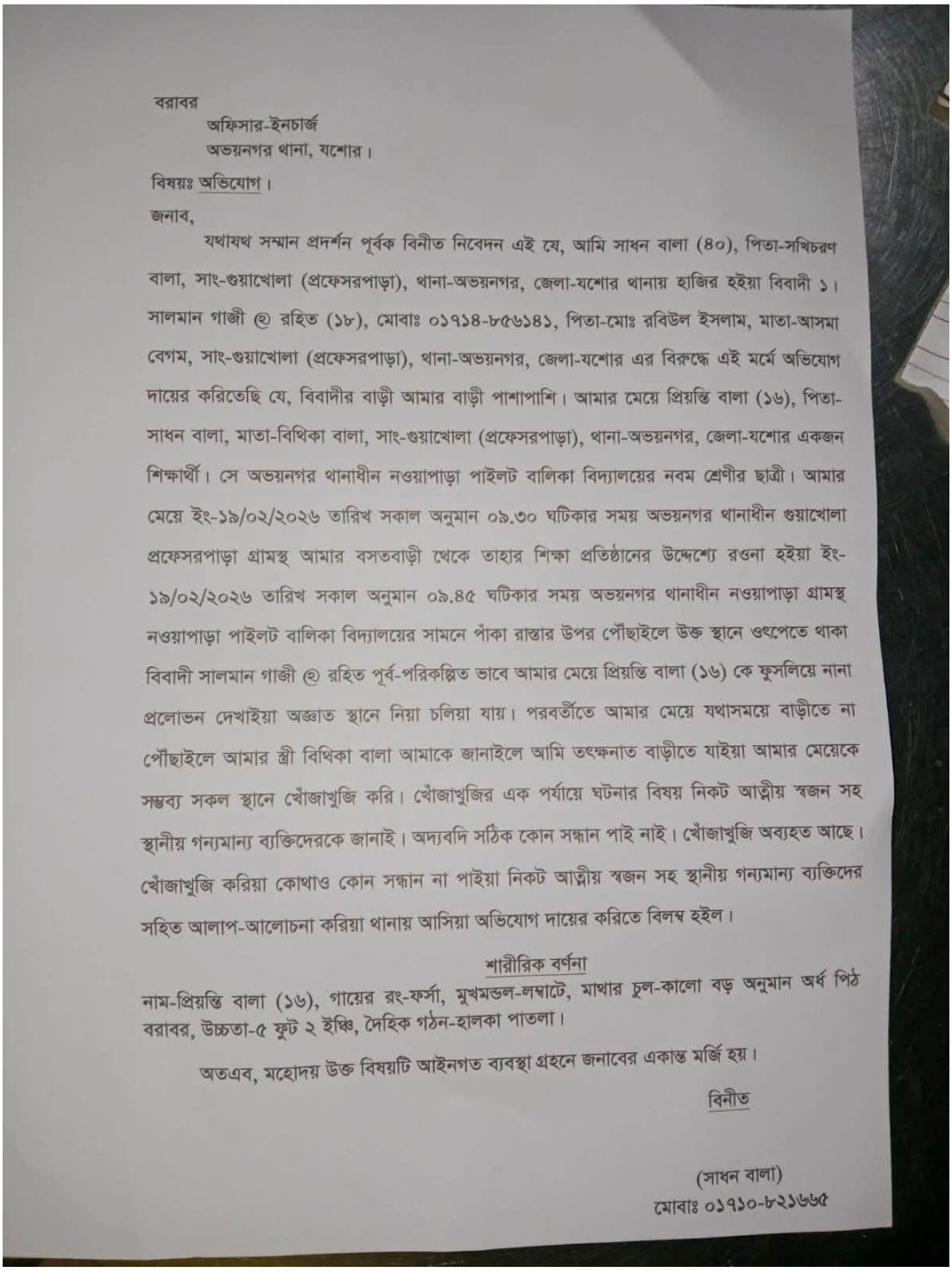
অভিযোগকারী বা, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে, তথ্য প্রদানকারীর নাম: (A3EUQ) নয়ন রানী দাস
জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র নম্বর/জন্ম নিবন্ধন নম্বর/পাসপোর্ট নম্বর (যদি থাকে): 6888933139
বয়স: ৩৮ লিঙ্গ: মহিলা পেশা (বিস্তারিত): গৃহকর্ত্রী
পিতার নাম: স্বামী-ভজন চন্দ্র দাস
মাতার নাম:
ঠিকানা: স্থায়ী:-: সোং-আলোকী চাঁদকাঠী, ৭নং ওয়ার্ড, ইউপি-ধুলিয়া, এ/পি-কালিশুরী বাজার) , উপজেলা/থানা- বাউফল, জেলা -পটুয়াখালী, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন, মোবাইল ও ফ্যাক্স নম্বর এবং ই-মেইল ঠিকানা (যদি থাকে): 01788413847

৫। অভিযোগকারী বা, প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে, তথ্য প্রদানকারী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অভিযুক্ত (গণ) এর বিবরণ (যদি তথ্য থাকে):

অভিযুক্ত (গণ) এর নাম :
১ নাম: (G2LGS) মোঃ সোহান মোল্লা
জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র নম্বর/জন্ম নিবন্ধন নম্বর/পাসপোর্ট নম্বর (যদি থাকে):
বর্ণনা: গায়ের রং, উচ্চতা, চুল, গোঁফ, চোখ, সনাক্তকরণ চিহ্ন ইত্যাদি:
বয়স: ২৩ লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ পেশা (বিস্তারিত):
পিতার নাম: মোঃ সোহাগ মোল্লা
মাতার নাম:
ঠিকানা: স্থায়ী: সোং-কালিশুরী, ৪নং ওয়ার্ড , উপজেলা/থানা- বাউফল, জেলা -পটুয়াখালী, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন, মোবাইল ও ফ্যাক্স নম্বর এবং ই-মেইল ঠিকানা (যদি থাকে):

৬। ঘটনার সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণী: অপহরণ করার অপরাধ।

Figure 48. SL 164: General Diary filed at Bauphal Police Station regarding the alleged gunpoint abduction of Monisha, an eleventh-grade Hindu minority student from Kalishuri, Bauphal, Patuakhali. According to the family's complaint, the accused, Sohan Molla, allegedly abducted the student by threatening her with a pistol. The family reported filing a GD but expressed concern that authorities had not taken effective action, raising serious concerns over child protection, minority girls' safety, personal liberty, and access to justice.



বরাবর
অফিসার-ইনচার্জ
অভয়নগর থানা, যশোর।

বিষয়ঃ অভিযোগ।

জনাব,

যথাযথ সম্মান প্রদর্শন পূর্বক বিনীত নিবেদন এই যে, আমি সাধন বালা (৪০), পিতা-সখিচরণ বালা, সাং-গুয়াখোলা (প্রফেসরপাড়া), থানা-অভয়নগর, জেলা-যশোর থানায় হাজির হইয়া বিবাদী ১। সালমান গাজী @ রহিত (১৮), মোবাঃ ০১৭১৪-৮৫৬১৪১, পিতা-মোঃ রবিউল ইসলাম, মাতা-আসমা বেগম, সাং-গুয়াখোলা (প্রফেসরপাড়া), থানা-অভয়নগর, জেলা-যশোর এর বিরুদ্ধে এই মর্মে অভিযোগ দায়ের করিতেছি যে, বিবাদীর বাড়ী আমার বাড়ী পাশাপাশি। আমার মেয়ে প্রিয়ন্তি বালা (১৬), পিতা-সাধন বালা, মাতা-বিথিকা বালা, সাং-গুয়াখোলা (প্রফেসরপাড়া), থানা-অভয়নগর, জেলা-যশোর একজন শিক্ষার্থী। সে অভয়নগর থানাধীন নওয়াপাড়া পাইলট বালিকা বিদ্যালয়ের নবম শ্রেণীর ছাত্রী। আমার মেয়ে ইং-১৯/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল অনুমান ০৯.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় অভয়নগর থানাধীন গুয়াখোলা প্রফেসরপাড়া গ্রামস্থ আমার বসতবাড়ী থেকে তাহার শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের উদ্দেশ্যে রওনা হইয়া ইং-১৯/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল অনুমান ০৯.৪৫ ঘটিকার সময় অভয়নগর থানাধীন নওয়াপাড়া গ্রামস্থ নওয়াপাড়া পাইলট বালিকা বিদ্যালয়ের সামনে পাঁকা রাস্তার উপর পৌঁছাইলে উক্ত স্থানে ওৎপেতে থাকা বিবাদী সালমান গাজী @ রহিত পূর্ব-পরিকল্পিত ভাবে আমার মেয়ে প্রিয়ন্তি বালা (১৬) কে ফুসলিয়ে নানা প্রলোভন দেখাইয়া অজ্ঞাত স্থানে নিয়া চলিয়া যায়। পরবর্তীতে আমার মেয়ে যথাসময়ে বাড়ীতে না পৌঁছাইলে আমার স্ত্রী বিথিকা বালা আমাকে জানাইলে আমি তৎক্ষনাত বাড়ীতে যাইয়া আমার মেয়েকে সম্ভব্য সকল স্থানে খোঁজাখুজি করি। খোঁজাখুজির এক পর্যায়ে ঘটনার বিষয় নিকট আত্নীয় স্বজন সহ স্থানীয় গন্যমান্য ব্যক্তিদেরকে জানাই। অদ্যবদি সঠিক কোন সন্ধান পাই নাই। খোঁজাখুজি অব্যহত আছে। খোঁজাখুজি করিয়া কোথাও কোন সন্ধান না পাইয়া নিকট আত্নীয় স্বজন সহ স্থানীয় গন্যমান্য ব্যক্তিদের সহিত আলাপ-আলোচনা করিয়া থানায় আসিয়া অভিযোগ দায়ের করিতে বিলম্ব হইল।

শারীরিক বর্ণনা

নাম-প্রিয়ন্তি বালা (১৬), গায়ের রং-ফর্সা, মুখমন্ডল-লম্বাটে, মাথার চুল-কালো বড় অনুমান অর্ধ পিঠ বরাবর, উচ্চতা-৫ ফুট ২ ইঞ্চি, দৈহিক গঠন-হালকা পাতলা।

অতএব, মহোদয় উক্ত বিষয়টি আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহনে জনাবের একান্ত মর্জি হয়।

বিনীত

(সাধন বালা)
মোবাঃ ০১৭১০-৮২১৬৬৫

Figure 49. SL 215: General Diary filed at Abhaynagar Police Station, Jashore, regarding the alleged abduction of Priyanti Bala, a 16-year-old ninth-grade Hindu minority student. According to the family's complaint, Priyanti left home for school on 19 February 2026 and was allegedly lured away near Nowapara Pilot Girls' School by Salman Gazi Rohit. The family reported that she remained missing despite searches by relatives and local community members, raising serious concerns over child protection, minority girls' safety, freedom of movement, and timely law-enforcement response.

Figure 50. SL 219: A speech-impaired Hindu woman receives medical treatment after an alleged gang rape in Tazumuddin, Bhola. According to HRCBM documentation, the survivor had gone to attend a kirtan near Anil Sadhu's temple and was reportedly lured into an auto-rickshaw by three local men before being taken to a nearby betel-nut grove, drugged, assaulted, and left severely injured. Her identity has been deliberately obscured to protect her dignity, privacy, and safety. The incident raises grave concerns over sexual violence against minority women, disability-related vulnerability, religious-event safety, and the urgent need for survivor protection and accountability.

Figure 51. SL May-24: Jessore University of Science and Technology (JUST) — Alleged Sexual Harassment of a Hindu Female Student, Followed by Administrative Inaction, Retaliatory Threats, and Communal Targeting, 7 May 2026.

Note: *Illustrative image accompanying HRCBM's documentation of allegations involving a Hindu female student at Jessore University of Science and Technology (JUST). According to HRCBM's report, the student alleged sexual harassment by EST teacher* ***Monirul Islam*** *during an academic study tour. HRCBM further documented allegations that, despite the matter becoming known on campus, the university administration did not initiate a visible formal investigation or disciplinary process and instead obtained a written undertaking (muchaleka) from the accused teacher. The student was subsequently reportedly subjected to intimidation, threats affecting her academic career and university certification, and communal stigmatization through attempts to associate her with "ISKCON." The allegations raise serious concerns regarding sexual harassment in educational institutions, protection of minority students, retaliation against complainants, institutional accountability, and access to an impartial investigation and effective remedy.*

Figure 52. SL June-2026 Representative Image — Alleged Sexual Assault of a Minority Student, Aditmari, Lalmonirhat, June 2026.

***Note:** This representative image accompanies HRCBM's documentation of the alleged rape of a ninth-grade Hindu female student by an institutional authority figure at Aditmari G.S. School. The case highlights critical human rights concerns documented by HRCBM, including the intersectional vulnerability of minority students, alleged institutional inaction, and systemic attempts to obstruct formal justice through financial coercion and forced out-of-court settlements. The image is used for illustrative and advocacy purposes only; it does not depict the actual survivor or specific individuals involved in the incident. It is included to reflect the community's demand for safety in educational institutions, the critical need for an impartial investigation, and the enforcement of absolute legal accountability.*

5.4 Missing Persons, Suspicious Deaths, and Disappearance-to-Death Patterns

The HRCBM registry contains multiple cases in which members of minority communities were reported missing, remained untraced for a period of time, or were subsequently found dead under suspicious or unexplained circumstances. The documented cases involve children, schoolgirls, students, women, workers, elderly persons, and young adults. In a number of cases, the initial information available to HRCBM was simply that an individual had disappeared; only later did the case develop into the recovery of a body from

a river, pond, canal, roadside, isolated location, residence, or other setting requiring further investigation.

This progression—from **a missing-person report to the subsequent discovery of a body**—makes the timely reporting and investigation of disappearances particularly important. A missing-person case should not automatically be presumed to involve abduction, trafficking, targeted killing, or any other specific crime. At the same time, an unexplained disappearance should not be treated as a routine absence where circumstances indicate heightened risk, including prior threats, communal hostility, land or property disputes, extortion, gender-based vulnerability, trafficking concerns, political intimidation, or other documented sources of danger.

For minority communities, this distinction is especially significant. HRCBM has documented cases in which families and community members have alleged that missing or subsequently deceased individuals may have been deliberately targeted. Such allegations cannot be treated as established fact without independent investigation. However, neither should they be dismissed merely because the victim was initially recorded only as "missing." **The missing-person report may constitute the first—and sometimes the only—opportunity for authorities to intervene before evidence disappears, memories fade, digital records are lost, or a body becomes too decomposed for straightforward identification.**

The wider national context reinforces this concern. During the same period covered by this report, Bangladesh's River Police recovered **18 bodies from waterways within an eight-day period in May 2026**; police reported that three murder cases and 12 unnatural-death cases were filed in connection with those recoveries [1]. Separately, the Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation reported that **53 unidentified bodies were recovered from different parts of Bangladesh during May 2026 alone** [5]. These figures do not establish that the deceased were members of minority communities or that they were victims of targeted violence. They do, however, demonstrate the scale of the broader identification and investigative challenge within which HRCBM's missing-person cases must be understood.

The problem is not confined to isolated 2026 incidents. River Police Headquarters data reported by *The Daily Star* showed that **301 bodies were recovered from rivers across Bangladesh between January and July 2025; 92 remained unidentified, and at least 41 murder cases were registered in connection with recovered bodies** [2]. The same reporting described police efforts to circulate information about unidentified bodies to police stations so that they could be cross-checked against missing-person records, while DNA samples were preserved in cases where conventional identification was no longer possible. Police and criminology experts also noted that waterways may be used to dispose of homicide victims, although river recoveries also include deaths caused by drowning, suicide, and other circumstances.

Recent individual cases further illustrate why the connection between missing-person records and unidentified-body investigations is operationally important. In May 2026, police recovered an unidentified young man's body from the Padma River in Rajshahi with his hands reportedly tied and a cloth around his neck. Investigators initially treated the case as a suspected murder, but decomposition prevented successful fingerprint identification. Police consequently circulated information to stations across the country in an effort to determine whether the victim matched an existing missing-person report [3]. The case demonstrates how delays in reporting, coordination, or identification can directly affect the ability of investigators to establish who a deceased person was and what happened to them.

Another unidentified body recovered from the Shitalakshya River in May 2026 had severed limbs and multiple reported injuries; police initially suspected a premeditated killing, but the victim had not yet been identified when the incident was reported [4]. Again, the existence of such cases does not establish a connection to minority persecution. It does, however, underscore why unidentified-body records, missing-person reports, forensic evidence, and investigations across police jurisdictions must be capable of being rapidly connected.

For HRCBM, the central concern is therefore not to presume that every missing minority person has been murdered, trafficked, abducted, or subjected to a targeted attack. Rather, it is to recognize that **a disappearance may represent the earliest stage of a serious protection case whose ultimate circumstances are not yet known**. Where an individual later turns up dead, the period during which that person was missing may contain critical evidence concerning movements, communications, threats, witnesses, vehicles, CCTV footage, financial transactions, or other information necessary to reconstruct the circumstances surrounding the death.

This concern is particularly acute where the missing person belongs to a community already facing documented vulnerabilities. A minority individual who disappears after receiving threats, resisting land grabbing, becoming involved in a communal dispute, reporting extortion, facing religious hostility, or experiencing gender-based or other targeted intimidation presents a materially different investigative context from an unexplained absence without known risk factors. Such circumstances do not prove criminal targeting, but they should inform the urgency, scope, and direction of the investigation.

HRCBM therefore considers **prompt reporting and immediate investigation of missing minority persons to be an essential preventive and accountability measure**. Families should be able to report disappearances without unreasonable delay or procedural obstruction. Where circumstances indicate risk, authorities should promptly examine available CCTV footage, telephone and digital records through lawful procedures, recent communications, known threats, travel or transportation information, financial activity where relevant, and potential witnesses. Information should be circulated across

appropriate police jurisdictions, including district, metropolitan, railway, and river police, and missing-person records should be systematically cross-referenced against unidentified persons, hospital admissions, morgue records, and unidentified bodies recovered throughout the country.

The need for such coordination is not theoretical. River Police data show that identification itself can become a major obstacle once decomposition has advanced, while documented cases demonstrate that investigators sometimes must rely on missing-person records and DNA evidence after fingerprints or visual identification are no longer viable [2].

Where a missing minority individual is subsequently found dead, the recovery of the body should mark the **beginning of a comprehensive death investigation, not the closure of the missing-person case**. Authorities should ensure proper inquest procedures, preservation of forensic evidence, timely post-mortem examination, DNA collection where identification is uncertain, examination of injuries and possible restraint marks, analysis of the location and condition in which the body was recovered, and investigation of the deceased person's movements and known threats before disappearance. Families should be appropriately informed of investigative developments, and credible allegations of targeted killing should be investigated impartially rather than either presumed to be true or dismissed without examination.

HRCBM further emphasizes the importance of preserving the distinction between **missing**, **unidentified**, **suspicious death**, and **suspected homicide** cases. These classifications reflect different stages of information and should be updated as evidence emerges. A person initially entered in the registry as missing may later be located safely; another may be found deceased from circumstances determined to be accidental; while another may become the subject of a homicide investigation. Maintaining this distinction protects the integrity of HRCBM's documentation while ensuring that potentially serious cases are not prematurely excluded simply because the final outcome was unknown at the time of initial reporting.

At the same time, the existence of large numbers of unidentified bodies nationally creates a serious practical concern for families whose relatives remain missing. **An unidentified deceased person in one jurisdiction may correspond to a missing-person report filed somewhere else.** Without effective information-sharing, forensic capacity, DNA comparison, and centralized or interoperable records, families may remain unaware that their missing relative has been recovered, while investigators remain unable to establish the identity necessary to advance a criminal investigation. The national data and reported investigative difficulties therefore strengthen the case for systematic linkage between missing-person reporting and unidentified-body investigations.

The cases in HRCBM's registry consequently raise two interconnected human-rights concerns. The first is the **right to prompt and effective protection when a person disappears under circumstances indicating possible danger**. The second is the **right of**

victims and families to truth, investigation, accountability, and effective remedy when a disappearance culminates in suspicious death.

For minority communities, an inadequate response at the missing-person stage may have particularly serious consequences. Failure to investigate promptly can eliminate opportunities to locate a victim alive, identify perpetrators, interrupt trafficking or abduction, preserve evidence, or determine whether the disappearance was connected to previous threats or targeted violence. When a body is later discovered, the same failure may make it substantially more difficult to establish identity, cause of death, motive, or criminal responsibility.

Accordingly, HRCBM retains credible missing-person cases within its monitoring framework even where the final circumstances remain unresolved. Where subsequent information establishes that an individual has been located or that a body has been recovered, the registry should be updated accordingly. This approach recognizes a critical reality of human-rights monitoring: **the significance of a disappearance cannot always be understood at the moment it is first reported. What begins as a missing-person case may later reveal abduction, trafficking, homicide, suspicious death, or another serious violation—and the quality and speed of the initial response may determine whether the truth can ever be established.**

Table 7. Representative Cases of Missing Persons, Suspicious Deaths, and Disappearance-to-Death Patterns, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
3	2 Jan 2026	Dhaka	Elderly missing person	Dinesh Chandra Das went missing after leaving home in Lakshmibazar.
32	9 Jan 2026	Dhaka	Missing minor	Turya Pal, age 14, went missing after leaving for school.
44	14 Jan 2026	Cumilla	Missing woman	Tipa Rani Sen disappeared after leaving for market.
68	19 Jan 2026	Cox’s Bazar	Suspicious hanging death	Rohid Barua’s body found hanging; family alleged murder.
75	21 Jan 2026	Munshiganj	Body recovered from river	Joy Chakraborty’s body recovered floating in Meghna River area.
83	22 Jan 2026	Bagerhat	Missing woman	Sagarika Bachhar missing after leaving home.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
89	24 Jan 2026	Dhaka	Suspicious death	Subir Biswas recovered severely injured/dead from a rooftop in Badda.
114	31 Jan 2026	Moulvibazar	Suspicious death	Tea worker Mongla Munda found dead in forest area; family alleged killing.
121	31 Jan 2026	Chattogram	University student death	Upama Dutta found hanging in university dormitory.
122	31 Jan 2026	Jhenaidah	Student hanging death	Ananya Ganguly found hanging after returning home from Dhaka.
127	2 Feb 2026	Dhaka	Body recovered after missing	Bijoy's body found in generator room after four days missing.
146	6 Feb 2026	Panchagarh	Body recovered after missing	College student Dhatri Rani found dead in pond after missing.
154	8 Feb 2026	Satkhira	Suspicious student death	Hindu university student found hanging.
216	22 Feb 2026	Kishoreganj	Missing teacher	Schoolteacher Jewel Sutradhar disappeared while returning from work.
May - 2	2 May, 2026	Faridpur	Missing Person → Body Recovered from River	Nikhil Malo alias Tepa (60) was found floating in the Ariyal Kha River two days after he went missing after leaving home to go fishing. The circumstances and cause of death required further investigation.
May-18	6 May 2026	Bogura	Unresolved Missing Minority Person	Minority tea seller Gopal Sarkar (40) of Nandigram Upazila was reported missing after leaving home on 28 April 2026. Despite searches by his family, no trace of him had been found seven days later. The unresolved disappearance illustrates the importance of prompt investigation of missing-person reports before potential evidence is lost or the case develops into abduction, trafficking, suspicious death, or other serious harm.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
May-72	19 May 2026	Pirojpur	Missing Person → Body Recovered Under Suspicious Circumstances	Nirmal Halder (60) was found dead one day after going missing. According to his family, gold jewelry, cash, and the mobile phone he had been carrying were missing when his body was recovered. Police were investigating the circumstances and cause of death.
May-100	24 May 2026	Mymensingh	Missing Person → Body Recovered from Pond	Bijoy Bormon (25) was found dead in a pond two days after he went missing. His family expressed suspicion that he may have been killed in connection with an earlier dispute, while police continued investigating the cause and circumstances of death.
May-115	28 May 2026	Kishoreganj	Unidentified Body → Subsequent Forensic Identification	A recovered body was subsequently identified by the Police Bureau of Investigation through fingerprint analysis as Bikash (43) of Brahmanbaria, while his family had reportedly not yet been located. The case illustrates the importance of forensic identification and cross-referencing unidentified bodies with missing-person information.
June-189	08 Jun 2026	Sylhet	Missing Woman → Body Recovered from River	Basana Rani Malakar (28), a Hindu minority housewife from Konagram in Zakiganj Upazila, was found dead in the Surma River after she had been reported missing. According to her family, she disappeared after going to collect floating firewood. The exact cause and circumstances of her death had not been determined at the time of documentation, and an investigation was ongoing.
June-216	14 Jun 2026	Dhaka	Body Recovered from River; Cause of Death Undetermined	The body of Dip Majumdar, a minority student of Jahangirnagar University, was recovered from beneath a bridge over the Buriganga River in the Basila area of Dhaka. His identity was initially indicated by a university identity card and subsequently confirmed by family members and classmates. The body was

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				sent for post-mortem examination, while the exact cause and circumstances of death remained under investigation. The case underscores the importance of prompt forensic examination and investigation of unexplained deaths involving bodies recovered from waterways.
June-226	17 Jun 2026	Chattogram	Missing Person → Bloodstained Body Recovered	Swapan Barua (52) was found dead in a paddy field one day after going missing. According to his family, he left home after receiving a telephone call and did not return; his bloodstained body was subsequently recovered and sent for post-mortem examination.
June-253	21 Jun 2026	Rangamati	Missing Minority Woman → Body Recovered from Kaptai Lake	Mukta Barua (28), a minority woman, was found dead in Kaptai Lake after she had been reported missing. Following information from local residents, the Fire Service recovered her body and handed it over to police for further legal procedures and post-mortem examination. The exact cause and circumstances of her death remained undetermined at the time of documentation, underscoring the importance of prompt search operations and impartial investigation when a missing person is subsequently recovered dead from a waterway.

SL3-Dinesh Chandra Das SL32-Turja Paul SL 44-Tipa Rani Sen SL 83-Tipa Rani Sen SL216-Juel Sutradhar

Figure 53. Composite images of representative missing-person cases affecting minority communities.

Note: The images document selected cases of minority individuals who went missing during the reporting period, including children, students, women, and elderly persons. HRCBM has observed a deeply troubling pattern in which missing-person cases involving minorities often generate serious fears of abduction, sexual exploitation, coercive marriage, trafficking, or later recovery of bodies under suspicious circumstances. These cases reflect not only individual tragedy, but also the profound insecurity, uncertainty, and fear faced by minority families when loved ones disappear and effective protection or timely recovery is not ensured.

SL127 Bijoy (19) SL127 Dhatri Rani (20)

Figure 54. SL 127 and SL 146: Bijoy (19) and Dhatri Rani (20) — Two young minority victims found dead after going missing. Bijoy's body was reportedly recovered from a generator room inside a factory in Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka, after he had been missing for several days. Dhatri Rani, a Hindu college student from Panchagarh, reportedly went missing while on her way to private tutoring and was found dead in a pond three days later. These cases illustrate the recurring disappearance-to-death pattern documented by HRCBM, raising grave concerns over youth safety, minority vulnerability, forensic transparency, and timely law-enforcement response.

Note: *HRCBM has received increasing reports of minority individuals going missing without trace, with some later found dead under suspicious circumstances. Across Bangladesh in recent years, bodies have reportedly been recovered from rivers, ponds, fields, roadsides, forests, industrial sites, and other locations—sometimes decomposed, disfigured, or*

difficult to identify. While each case requires independent forensic investigation, the recurrence of disappearance followed by unexplained death raises urgent concerns regarding minority safety, missing-person response, forensic capacity, and accountability.

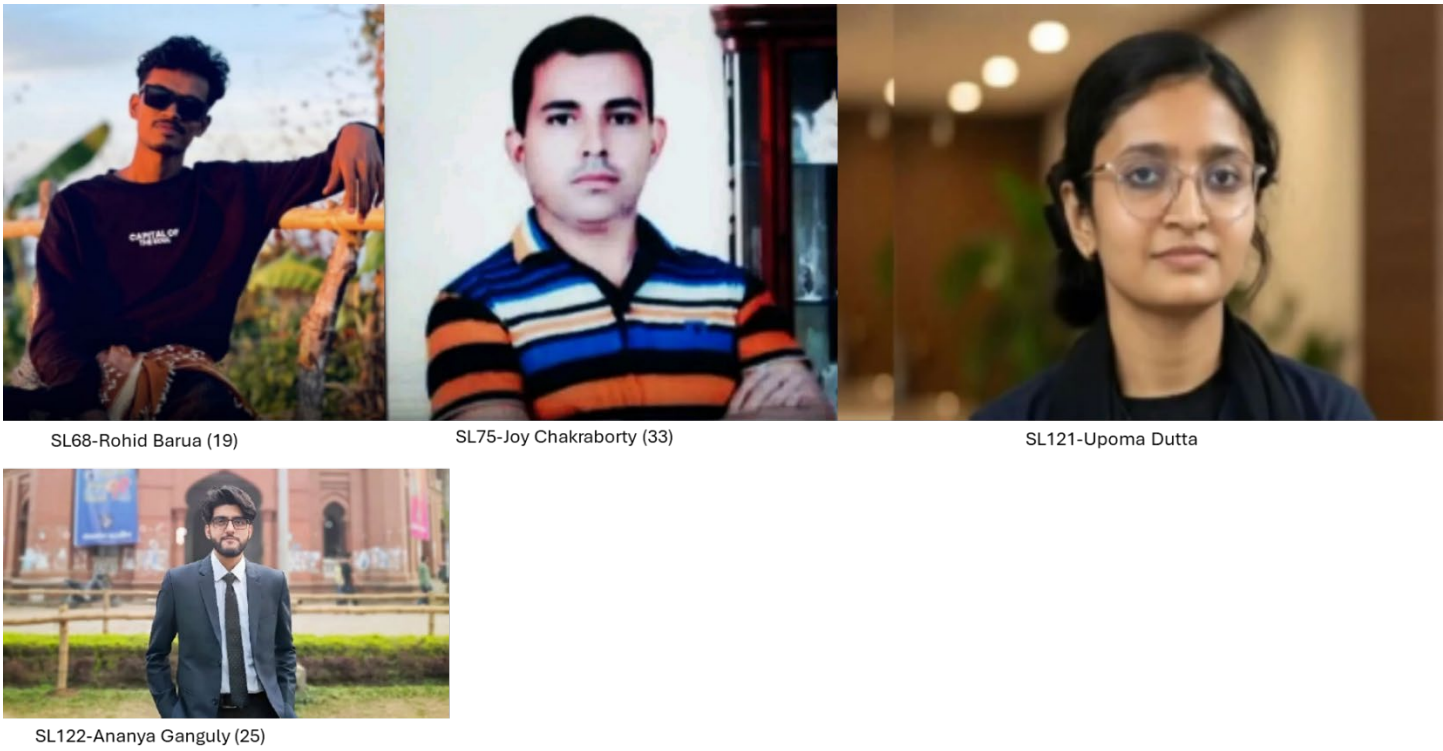


Figure 55. Suspicious deaths of young minority students and professionals — HRCBM Section 5.4.

Note: *Composite images of young minority victims whose deaths were documented as suspicious or unexplained after disappearance, campus-related incidents, or recovery of bodies under troubling circumstances. Several cases involved university or college students, including young people whose families and communities continue to seek truth, forensic clarity, and accountability. These cases reflect a deeply concerning pattern in which missing or vulnerable minority youth are later found dead under circumstances requiring prompt, independent, and transparent investigation.*

Figure 56. SL May-2: Bhanga, Faridpur — Local residents gather near the Arial Khan River after the recovery of the floating body of minority elder Nikhil Malo alias Tepa (60), shown at right, two days after he went missing.

Note: *This composite image relates to HRCBM's documentation of the death of* ***Nikhil Malo (also known as Tepa), a 60-year-old minority elder*** *from Bhanga Upazila, Faridpur. According to HRCBM's report and local news reporting, he left home on* ***29 April 2026*** *to go fishing and did not return. After family members searched for him without success, local residents reportedly spotted his* ***floating body in the Arial Khan River near Duyair Dargah Bazar under Nasirabad Union on 1 May 2026****, and police recovered the body from the river. The* ***left side*** *of the image shows people gathered along the riverbank near the recovery site, while the* ***right side*** *shows Nikhil Malo. Police reportedly initiated legal formalities and arranged for post-mortem examination. The case illustrates the serious human-rights and protection concerns associated with* ***missing minority persons later found dead in waterways****, including the need for prompt search measures, transparent forensic inquiry, and impartial investigation into the circumstances of death.*

Figure 57. SL May-18: Nandigram, Bogura — Missing Minority Tea Seller Gopal Sarkar (40) and Police General Diary Filed Following His Disappearance, May 2026.

Note: *The composite image shows* ***Gopal Sarkar (40)****, a minority tea seller from Bailgram in Nandigram Upazila, Bogura, alongside documentation reportedly relating to the* ***General Diary (GD)*** *filed with Nandigram Police Station after his disappearance. According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous news reporting, Gopal Sarkar left his home on* ***28 April 2026****, reportedly saying that he was going to Nandigram, and did not return. He operated a tea stall at Omorpur Hat and also engaged in agricultural work. Despite searches by family members across possible locations, no trace of him had been found seven days later. His son,* ***Gauranga Sarkar****, filed the GD, while his wife,* ***Adori Rani****, expressed fear that he might have been abducted and appealed for assistance in securing his safe return. Police stated that they were investigating the disappearance and making efforts to locate him. The case illustrates the importance of prompt, coordinated investigation of missing minority persons, particularly during the critical early period when timely action may help determine whether a disappearance is voluntary, accidental, or connected to abduction or other criminal activity.*

Figure 58. SL May-72: Nesarabad, Pirojpur — Nirmal Halder alias Nirmal Ojha (60), Found Dead One Day After Being Reported Missing, 19 May 2026.

Note: *This composite image relates to the death of* ***Nirmal Halder, also known as Nirmal Ojha (60)****, a Hindu resident of West Kuriana, Nesarabad Upazila, Pirojpur. The* ***left image shows the reported location where his body was found beside an abandoned house in Panaullahpur village****, with the body blurred, while the* ***right image reportedly shows Nirmal Halder during his lifetime****. According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous news reporting, he went missing on the evening of* ***18 May 2026*** *after visiting Kuriana Market. After family members were unable to locate him, they filed a General Diary with Nesarabad Police Station that night. His body was recovered by police the following morning. Family members reported that he had been carrying cash and wearing two gold lockets weighing approximately one and a half bhori when he disappeared; police reportedly found neither the gold jewelry, his mobile phone, nor the cash when his body was recovered. The cause of death had not been determined at the time of reporting, and police stated that the investigation was continuing. The disappearance followed by recovery of his body within approximately one day, together with the reported absence of his valuables and personal belongings, raises serious concerns requiring a prompt, impartial, forensic, and transparent investigation into whether robbery, homicide, or other criminal conduct was involved.*

Figure 59. SL May-100: Mymensingh Sadar — Bijoy Barman, a Minority Youth Found Dead in a Pond Two Days After Going Missing, 24 May 2026.

Note: *This composite image relates to the death of* ***Bijoy Barman****, a minority youth from the Begunbari area of Mymensingh Sadar. The* ***left image reportedly shows his body, blurred for dignity, after it was discovered floating among water hyacinths in a pond near his home****, while the* ***right image reportedly shows Bijoy Barman during his lifetime****. According to HRCBM documentation, Bijoy disappeared after leaving his home on the night of 22 May 2026, and his family searched for him without success. On the morning of 24 May, local residents discovered his body in a nearby pond, and family members subsequently identified him. His relatives alleged that his death was not natural and expressed concern that criminal activity, possibly connected to an earlier dispute, may have been involved. Police stated that no visible injuries were initially observed and that the precise cause of death remained subject to post-mortem examination and investigation. The case illustrates the serious human-rights concerns that arise when a minority person is reported missing and is subsequently found dead under unexplained circumstances, underscoring the need for prompt missing-person investigation, transparent forensic examination, and an impartial determination of whether criminal conduct was involved.*

Figure 60. SL May-115: Bhairab, Kishoreganj — Bikash (43), Identified Through PBI Fingerprint Analysis After His Body Was Initially Recovered Unidentified, 28 May 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Bikash (43)****, son of Hema Chandra Saha of Araishidha, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, whose body was recovered near the Bhairab Municipal Graveyard in Kishoreganj and was initially recorded as unidentified. According to HRCBM documentation, the* ***Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) subsequently established his identity through fingerprint analysis****, but authorities had reportedly been unable to locate or notify his family at the time of reporting. Local information indicated that he had been living in a marginalized and transient condition around the railway station and graveyard area. Police initially indicated that the death might have resulted from natural causes, possibly a stroke, while stating that the body would undergo post-mortem examination to determine the actual cause of death. The case illustrates the critical importance of forensic identification, effective coordination between law-enforcement jurisdictions, systematic cross-referencing of unidentified bodies with missing-person records, and sustained efforts to locate and notify families. It also raises broader human-rights concerns regarding the dignity and protection of deceased persons and the particular vulnerability of socially marginalized minority individuals whose deaths may otherwise remain unidentified or disconnected from their families.*

Figure 61. SL June-189: Zakiganj, Sylhet — Basana Rani Malakar (28), a Minority Hindu Mother of Two Whose Body Was Recovered from the Surma River After She Went Missing, June 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Basana Rani Malakar (28)****, a Hindu woman from Konagram village under Barohal Union in Zakiganj Upazila, Sylhet, and the mother of two children. According to HRCBM documentation, she went missing after leaving home to collect floating firewood from the nearby Surma River. When she did not return, family members searched for her and subsequently contacted the Fire Service. A Fire Service diving team conducted a search operation and later recovered her body from the Surma River. At the time HRCBM prepared its report, no official determination of the precise cause of death had been published, and HRCBM called for an impartial investigation, appropriate post-mortem and legal procedures, and support for the bereaved family. The case illustrates why the disappearance of a minority person—particularly a woman—requires prompt search and investigative action, as an initially unresolved missing-person case may rapidly develop into a suspicious or unexplained death requiring forensic examination and accountability.*

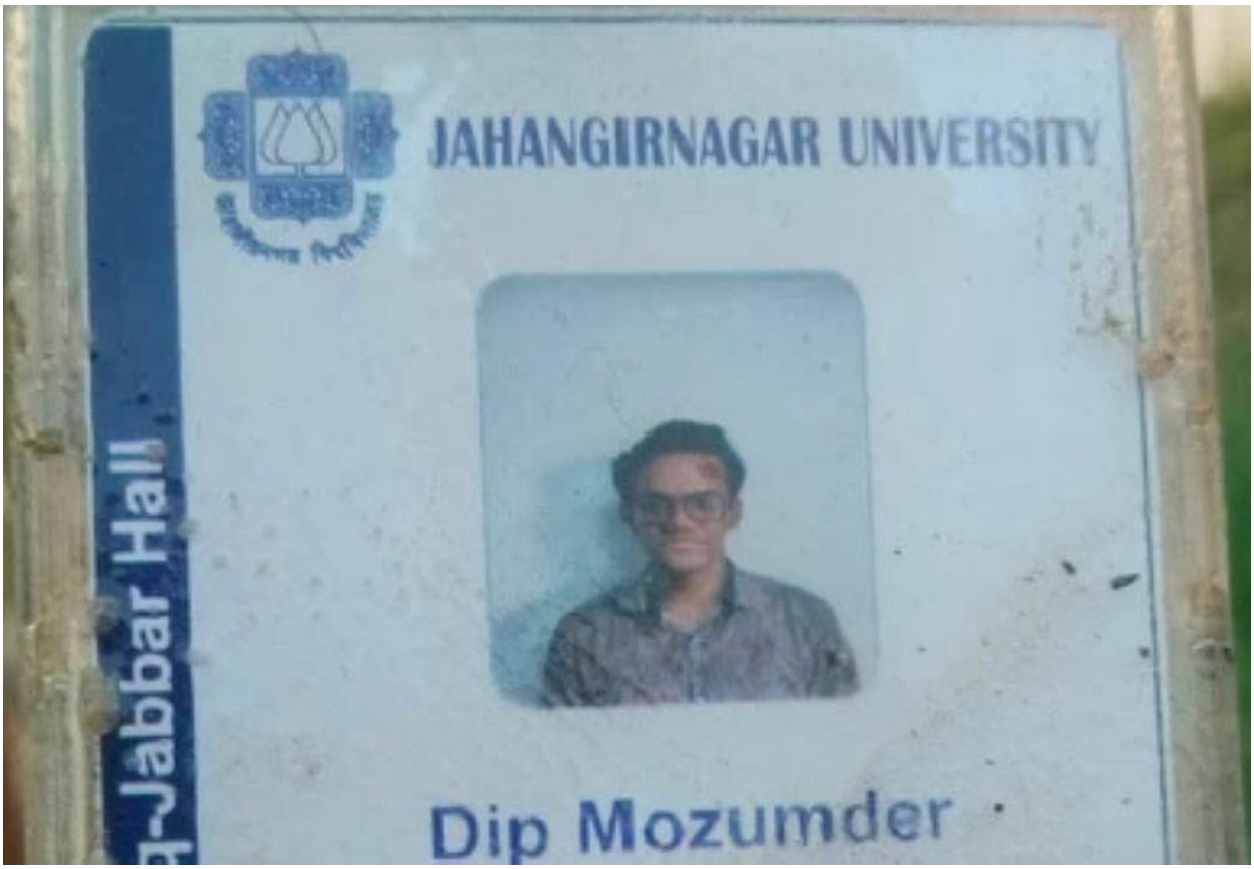


Figure 62. SL June-216: Basila, Dhaka — Jahangirnagar University Identification Card of Dip Majumdar, a Minority Student Whose Body Was Recovered from the Buriganga River, 14 June 2026.

Note: *The image shows the* ***Jahangirnagar University identification card of Dip Majumdar****, a student of the 50th batch of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. According to HRCBM documentation, his partially decomposed body was recovered from beneath a bridge over the Buriganga River in the Basila area of Dhaka. An identification card found with or near the body reportedly provided the initial basis for identifying him, after which family members and fellow students formally confirmed his identity. HRCBM further documented that the body was sent to Mitford Hospital for post-mortem examination and that, at the time of reporting, the precise cause and circumstances of death—and whether any criminal act was involved—had not been conclusively determined. The case highlights the importance of prompt investigation of missing-person reports, preservation of identification evidence, transparent forensic examination, and an impartial inquiry into unexplained deaths involving students and members of minority communities.*

Figure 63. SL June-226: Raozan, Chattogram — Swapan Barua, a Minority School Employee Whose Body Was Recovered One Day After He Went Missing, 17 June 2026

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Swapan Barua****, a member of the minority Buddhist community and a longtime employee of Gourchandra Jatindra High School in Kadalpur Union, Raozan Upazila, Chattogram. According to HRCBM documentation, Swapan Barua left his home after being called outside and did not return. His family and local residents searched for him through the night, and his body was discovered the following day in a field or wetland area near the school. Relatives and local residents reportedly observed injuries on parts of his body, while a poison container was also reportedly found near the scene. HRCBM noted that police had not reached a final determination regarding the cause of death and called for examination of the circumstances preceding his disappearance, relevant telephone-call records, post-mortem and forensic findings, and any evidence of possible criminal involvement. Contemporary news reporting similarly recorded local concerns regarding visible injuries and allegations that the circumstances might not represent a natural death, although police initially treated the case as an unnatural death*

pending post-mortem findings. The case illustrates the importance of treating the disappearance of a minority person followed shortly by recovery of the body as a matter requiring prompt, impartial, and evidence-based investigation rather than premature assumptions regarding the cause of death.

Figure 64. SL June-253: Rangamati — Mukta Barua (28), a Minority Woman Whose Body Was Recovered from Kaptai Lake After She Was Reported Missing, 21 June 2026.

Note: The image reportedly shows **Mukta Barua (28)**, a minority woman who lived with her husband in the Tabalchhari area of Rangamati. According to HRCBM documentation, Mukta left her residence during the early hours of 19 June 2026 and did not return. After her family was unable to locate her, a General Diary concerning her disappearance was filed with Rangamati Kotwali Police Station on 20 June. The following morning, local residents reportedly observed a body floating in Kaptai Lake near the Reservemukh area of Rangamati town, after which Fire Service personnel recovered the body and it was identified as Mukta Barua. Contemporary news reporting similarly records that she had been missing since 19 June and that her family filed a missing-person GD before her body was recovered from the lake on 21 June.

HRCBM further documented that the body was reportedly recovered **without clothing**, although police stated that no visible external injuries were identified during the preliminary examination. The body was sent for post-mortem examination, and the precise cause and circumstances of death had not been established at the time of HRCBM's reporting. While these circumstances should not be used to draw conclusions before forensic findings are available, they warrant a prompt, impartial, and comprehensive investigation, including examination of whether any third-party or criminal involvement occurred. The case reinforces the central concern of this section: **a missing-person report**

may rapidly develop into an unexplained death, making timely search efforts, preservation of evidence, forensic examination, and transparent investigation critically important.

5.5 Targeted Killings and Lethal Attacks

During January–June 2026, **HRCBM documented 168 incidents categorized as murders and mysterious or suspicious deaths** affecting members of minority and Indigenous communities. This figure includes cases involving clearly documented or alleged intentional killings as well as deaths occurring under suspicious or unresolved circumstances in which the precise cause, motive, or potential criminal responsibility remained under investigation. Accordingly, the 168 incidents should not be interpreted as 168 confirmed targeted killings.

The documented cases include fatal shootings and armed ambushes, attacks with sharp or blunt weapons, killings inside or near victims' homes and workplaces, fatal assaults, alleged abductions followed by death, suspected poisoning, burning, and other deaths in which families or local communities alleged possible criminal involvement. Victims included minority business owners, workers, farmers, women, students, elderly persons, community members, and Indigenous individuals.

In several cases, available information indicated deliberate lethal violence, including shootings, armed attacks, fatal assaults, or other direct acts of violence. In others, families alleged murder or criminal involvement while post-mortem examinations, forensic findings, or police investigations remained incomplete or inconclusive. HRCBM therefore distinguishes between **documented lethal attacks and suspected homicides** on the one hand, and **mysterious or suspicious deaths whose circumstances remain unresolved** on the other.

The fact that a victim belonged to a religious or ethnic minority does not, by itself, establish that a killing was motivated by the victim's identity. Motive must be determined through credible evidence and impartial investigation. Nevertheless, the scale of the documented deaths—viewed alongside incidents involving communal hostility, land and property disputes, extortion, intimidation, attacks on religious institutions, and other forms of violence documented elsewhere in this report—raises serious concerns regarding the security of minority communities and their access to equal protection under the law.

Particular concern arises in cases involving prior threats, land or property conflicts, political or communal tensions, alleged abduction, armed ambush, victims being called away from home before death, or bodies recovered with indications of possible violence. Such cases require investigators to examine not only the immediate medical cause of death but also potential motive, prior threats, relationships between victims and alleged

perpetrators, telephone and digital records, witness testimony, and any connection to broader patterns of intimidation or dispossession.

HRCBM further notes that delayed or inconclusive investigations into suspicious deaths can deepen fear within affected communities. Where post-mortem findings are delayed, criminal investigations remain unresolved, or families receive inadequate information regarding investigative progress, uncertainty compounds the original harm and may weaken confidence in the justice system. Effective accountability requires prompt preservation of evidence, professional forensic examination, impartial criminal investigation, protection of witnesses and surviving family members, and prosecution where evidence establishes criminal responsibility.

The representative cases below illustrate different forms of lethal violence and suspected homicide documented during the reporting period. They are **illustrative rather than exhaustive of the 168 incidents recorded under the murder and mysterious-death category**, and their inclusion should not be interpreted as establishing a common motive across all cases.

Table 8. Representative Cases of Targeted Killings, Suspicious Lethal Attacks, and Severe Gender-Based Murder, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
18	6 Jan 2026	Narsingdi	Murder	Hindu grocer Moni Chakraborty hacked after closing shop.
28	8 Jan 2026	Chattogram	Rape and murder	Minor girl Shrabanti Ghosh reportedly raped and killed.
30	9 Jan 2026	Sunamganj	Murder allegation	Joy Mahapatra reportedly killed by poisoning.
36	12 Jan 2026	Feni	Murder	Samir Kumar Das found dead with sharp weapon injuries.
50	16 Jan 2026	Rajbari	Vehicle killing	Ripon Saha reportedly run over after demanding fuel payment.
59	17 Jan 2026	Gazipur	Killing	Businessman Liton Chandra Ghosh killed after intervening in assault.
76	21 Jan 2026	Khulna	Murder	Elderly widow Srilakha Sana hacked to death at home.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
92	24 Jan 2026	Narsingdi	Burned alive	Chanchal Chandra Bhowmik reportedly burned while sleeping in workshop.
95	25 Jan 2026	Khagrachhari	Indigenous death after attack	Bimal Tripura died after land-related attack on Indigenous community.
98	26 Jan 2026	Kurigram	Land-dispute death	Elderly Madhu Chandra Shil died after assault/altercation over land.
161	10 Feb 2026	Mymensingh	Murder	Rice trader Susen Chandra Sarkar killed in shop attack.
169	11 Feb 2026	Moulvibazar	Throat-slitting murder	Tea worker Ratan Shubhakar found with throat injury.
182	13 Feb 2026	Gaibandha	Murder	Amitabh Chandra Sujan reportedly attacked with axe and died.
196	17 Feb 2026	Bogura	Fatal stabbing	Sunil Banshfor died after stabbing.
May-21	06 May 2026	Manikganj	Alleged Detention and Assault Followed by Suspicious Death	Krishna Rajbanshi (35), a Hindu minority man, was allegedly detained, assaulted, and unlawfully confined inside a market management committee office over an accusation of fish theft. His hanging body was subsequently recovered from inside the office. Local residents also alleged that an attempt was made to remove the body quickly. Police sent the body for autopsy, and the circumstances require an impartial investigation into possible custodial or mob-related lethal violence.
May-30	09 May 2026	Rangamati	Armed Ambush and Fatal Shooting of Indigenous Organizer	**Hegera Chakma (50)**, a local organizer of the UPDF–Prasit faction, was reportedly shot dead after a group of approximately 10–12 armed individuals allegedly lay in ambush and opened fire while he was traveling for organizational work in Baghaichhari.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
May-64	18 May 2026	Khulna	Fatal Home Attack; Wife Seriously Injured	Hindu medicine trader Bhabatosh Mridha (40) was killed and his wife, Bibha Mridha, was seriously injured after assailants allegedly entered their home through the rear and attacked them with sharp weapons. The family alleged a possible connection to a land dispute, while the precise motive remained under investigation.
May-121	29 May 2026	Rangamati	Alleged Abduction Followed by Killing	Indigenous farmer Shambhu Bikash Chakma (48) was found dead with his hands tied in the Chengi River three days after masked individuals allegedly abducted him from his home in Naniarchar. The circumstances present a particularly serious alleged abduction-to-homicide case requiring full investigation and accountability.
June-268	24 Jun 2026	Khagrachhari	Disputed Security-Force Killing; Possible Extrajudicial Lethal Violence Requiring Independent Investigation	Bobin Tripura (32), an Indigenous Tripura man reportedly affiliated with the UPDF, was killed during an incident involving Bangladesh security forces in the Ramgarh area of Khagrachhari. While one account described an exchange of gunfire and reported the recovery of an AK-47 from the scene, UPDF alleged that security personnel had positioned themselves in advance and carried out a pre-planned attack. The materially conflicting accounts, together with uncertainty regarding the precise sequence of events and the reported status of another Indigenous man who was allegedly injured or missing, warrant an independent and impartial investigation to determine whether the use of lethal force was lawful or whether extrajudicial killing or other human-rights violations occurred.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
June-288	26 Jun 2026	Mymensingh	Murder of Minority Hindu Woman; Suspect Arrested	Police arrested Mazharul Islam, identified as the prime suspect in the killing of Renu Rani Sen (55), a Hindu woman in Tarakanda. Police reported that the suspect provided a statement before a court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, while the motive and possible involvement of others remained under investigation.

SL18-Moni Chakraborty

SL28-Shrabanti Ghosh [victim of gang rape who was subsequently murdered]

SL30-Joy Mahapatra

SL36 Samir Kumar Das

Figure 65. Portraits of victims documented in targeted killings and lethal attacks — HRCBM Section 5.5.

Note: *Composite portraits of minority victims documented by HRCBM as targeted killings, suspicious lethal attacks, or severe identity-linked violence during the reporting period. The panel includes victims allegedly murdered through direct physical attack, sharp-weapon assault, burning, poisoning, or other violent circumstances. It also includes SL 28, a minor girl whose case was documented as gang rape followed by murder, reflecting the extreme vulnerability of minority girls to gender-based and lethal violence. HRCBM has intentionally used dignified portrait images rather than graphic post-mortem photographs to preserve victim dignity, reduce viewer distress, and present the cases in a respectful documentation format.*

Figure 66. SL May-21: Reported assault of Krishna Rajbanshi, his final recorded image before death, and the devastation suffered by his family.

Composite image showing: *(i) a video screen grab reportedly depicting Krishna Rajbanshi being physically assaulted in public; (ii) a later image of Krishna Rajbanshi recorded before the reported recovery of his body following the allegation of lynching and unlawful confinement; and (iii) his surviving family members, left in grief and economic devastation after the loss of the household's sole earning member.*

Note: *This composite image brings together three visual elements associated with the case of Krishna Rajbanshi: a reported video screen grab showing him being assaulted; a later image of Krishna Rajbanshi before the recovery of his body under suspicious circumstances; and a photograph of his surviving family, who were left traumatized and economically devastated following the loss of the family's sole earning member. According to HRCBM documentation and local reporting, Krishna Rajbanshi, a Hindu minority man, was allegedly beaten and unlawfully confined following an accusation of fish theft, after which his body was recovered hanging inside a local market committee office. The case raises grave concerns regarding mob violence, torture, unlawful confinement, and the devastating long-term impact of such violence on minority families who are often left without effective justice or accountability.*

Figure 67. SL May-30: Shuknochhara, Sajek, Rangamati — Aftermath of the Fatal Shooting of Indigenous Chakma Organizer Hegera Chakma (50), 9 May 2026.

***Note:** The image reportedly shows the scene following the fatal shooting of **Hegera Chakma (50)**, an Indigenous Chakma man and local organizer associated with the UPDF–Prasit faction, in the remote Shuknochhara area of Sajek Union, Baghaichhari Upazila, Rangamati. According to HRCBM documentation, local sources reported that Hegera Chakma was travelling for organizational work when an armed group, reportedly positioned in ambush, opened fire and killed him at the scene. Contemporary media reports likewise described an armed shooting but did not independently establish the identity of the perpetrators or the precise motive.*

HRCBM considers this killing inseparable from the broader human-rights crisis confronting Indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. While the available evidence does not establish that State security forces were responsible for Hegera Chakma's death, the circumstances require investigation from all credible angles, including the possibility of extrajudicial or politically motivated killing. The incident occurred in a region where independent scrutiny has historically been difficult and where Indigenous communities have repeatedly raised concerns regarding armed violence, land dispossession, intimidation, disappearances, and impunity. Human Rights Watch has reported that Indigenous groups describe an increased military presence in the Hill Tracts and that restrictions on access and extensive surveillance make documentation of alleged abuses

difficult and dangerous. Amnesty International has also documented a longstanding heavy military presence and past government restrictions on access to the region.

These concerns remain contemporary. Recent UN Special Procedures communications have recorded allegations that Indigenous peoples, their leaders, advocates, and human-rights defenders in the Chittagong Hill Tracts face criminalization and intimidation amid a high military presence, while another communication concerning the region documented allegations of killings, enforced disappearances, repression of peaceful protests, and attacks against Indigenous communities. These are allegations requiring independent determination, but their seriousness demonstrates why deaths in this environment cannot be examined solely through unverified narratives of rivalry between regional armed groups.

For HRCBM, the killing of Hegera Chakma therefore represents more than the death of one Indigenous man. It reflects the profound insecurity experienced by communities living on their ancestral lands in a region where armed actors operate, access for independent human-rights scrutiny remains constrained, and accountability for serious violations has repeatedly been questioned. ***HRCBM calls for a genuinely independent investigation, with international human-rights scrutiny where necessary, capable of examining all potential perpetrators and chains of responsibility without political or institutional interference.*** *Such an inquiry should secure forensic evidence, protect witnesses and family members, guarantee access for independent investigators and human-rights monitors, and determine whether this killing formed part of a wider pattern of politically motivated, extrajudicial, or targeted violence against Indigenous people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.*

The plight of the Indigenous peoples of the Hill Tracts cannot be reduced to competing labels of "armed group," "political faction," or "security operation." Behind every such death is an Indigenous community struggling to preserve ***life, land, identity, dignity, and the right to live without fear on its ancestral homeland****. Until killings such as this are independently investigated and those responsible are held accountable, the cycle of violence and distrust in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is likely to persist.*

Figure 68. SL May- 64: Hindu pharmacy owner Bhabatosh Mridha (40), killed in an apparently targeted nighttime attack in Koyra, Khulna, shown alongside the dug-through earthen foundation reportedly used by assailants to gain entry into his home..

Note: *This composite image reportedly shows* ***Bhabatosh Mridha (40)****, a Hindu pharmacy owner from Maheshwaripur village in Koyra Upazila, Khulna, alongside the section of his home where assailants allegedly* ***dug through the earthen foundation to gain entry during the night****. According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous reporting, armed attackers entered the residence between approximately 2:30 and 3:00 a.m. and assaulted Bhabatosh with sharp weapons, inflicting severe injuries to his neck, chest, and other parts of his body. His wife,* ***Bibha Mridha****, was also injured during the attack. He was taken to Koyra Upazila Health Complex, where he was declared dead.*

The circumstances strongly raise the possibility of a ***planned and targeted killing rather than an opportunistic burglary****. The attackers reportedly created a concealed entry point through the rear foundation of the victim's home, carried out a focused lethal assault, and left without taking valuables. Police themselves reportedly stated that the incident did not initially appear to be theft or robbery. The victim's injured wife further alleged that she recognized one individual among the attackers and referred to a pre-existing land-related dispute, although these allegations and the ultimate motive remain subject to investigation.*

For HRCBM, the case illustrates the extreme vulnerability that minority families may face when ***land or property disputes, prior hostility, and targeted violence intersect****. A family home—ordinarily the place where individuals should be safest—was allegedly penetrated deliberately in the middle of the night, the principal victim was killed through concentrated*

sharp-weapon violence, and his wife was injured. The attack left the surviving family traumatized and contributed to fear among the surrounding minority community. While the available evidence does not yet establish that Bhabatosh Mridha was killed because he was Hindu, the apparently targeted nature of the assault, the reported prior land dispute, and the absence of a robbery motive require a thorough investigation into ***who ordered or carried out the attack, whether the land dispute was connected to the killing, and whether the victim's minority status or vulnerability played any role in enabling or motivating the crime****.*

Figure 69. SL May-121: Naniarchar, Rangamati — Indigenous Chakma Farmer Shambhu Bikash Chakma (48), Allegedly Abducted from His Home by Masked Men and Found Dead Three Days Later in the Chengi River with His Hands Bound, May 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Shambhu Bikash Chakma (48)****, an Indigenous Chakma farmer from Dozarpada in Naniarchar Upazila, Rangamati. According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous reporting, three to four masked individuals allegedly entered or approached his home around midnight and forcibly took him away. He remained missing for three days before his body was recovered from the Chengi River near Rauf Tila. His hands were reportedly tied behind his back, and police confirmed visible injuries to his chest and throat; one contemporaneous report stated that police were preliminarily treating the death as a suspected homicide.*

The circumstances distinguish this case from an unexplained or accidental death. ***A farmer was allegedly taken from his own home by masked men, disappeared for three days, and was subsequently recovered dead with his hands bound and injuries on his body.*** *This sequence raises grave concerns of abduction followed by intentional killing and demands an investigation capable of establishing who carried out the abduction, where Shambhu was held, what occurred during the three days he was missing, who killed him, and whether others directed, facilitated, concealed, or tolerated the crime. HRCBM considers the case a stark illustration of the fear confronting Indigenous families in parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where a person may be taken from the security of his own home and his family left searching for answers until his body is recovered.*

The case must also be understood against the broader human-rights environment of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Recent UN Special Procedures communications have recorded allegations of continuing marginalization and discriminatory practices affecting Indigenous communities and of ***criminalization and intimidation of Indigenous leaders, advocates, and human-rights defenders amid a high military presence****. Another 2025 UN communication recorded allegations concerning killings, enforced disappearances, repression of peaceful protests, and racially motivated attacks in the CHT, including allegations of coordination between settlers and military personnel. These remain allegations requiring independent investigation, but their seriousness underscores why credible international scrutiny of the region is essential*

Human Rights Watch has likewise reported allegations of serious abuses against Indigenous peoples in the Hill Tracts and stated that ***limits on access to the region and widespread surveillance make independent documentation of human-rights abuses difficult and dangerous****. It has called for unfettered access for human-rights monitors and international Indigenous-rights mechanisms.*

HRCBM therefore believes that Shambhu Bikash Chakma's killing should not be reduced to an unexamined narrative of local rivalry or generalized "regional conflict." ***There is no evidence presently establishing that Bangladesh military personnel were responsible for his abduction or death****, and the report should not make that assertion without proof. At the same time, the broader climate of militarization, restrictions on independent scrutiny, allegations of disappearances and extrajudicial violence, and longstanding failures of accountability make a* ***genuinely independent and internationally credible investigation*** *particularly important. Such an investigation must be capable of examining* ***all potential perpetrators—State and non-State actors alike—without political or institutional interference****.*

For the Indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, cases such as this represent more than individual tragedies. They deepen a collective sense of insecurity among communities struggling to protect their ***ancestral lands, homes, livelihoods, cultural identity, and right to live without fear****. When an Indigenous farmer can allegedly be taken from his home by masked men and found days later with his hands bound, the question is not only who killed one man—it is whether the institutions responsible for protecting Indigenous citizens can deliver truth and justice in a region where communities have repeatedly alleged violence, intimidation, dispossession, and impunity. Until such cases are investigated independently and perpetrators are held accountable, fear will continue to define daily life for many Indigenous families in the Hill Tracts.*

Figure 70. SL June-196: Patiya, Chattogram — Minority Youth Pankaj Shil (26), Killed in an Apparently Deliberate Sharp-Weapon Attack, and Tilak Chakraborty (30), Seriously Injured, 9 June 2026. Composite image showing the immediate grief surrounding the atta

Note: *This composite image relates to the fatal attack on* ***Pankaj Shil (26)*** *and the serious wounding of* ***Tilak Chakraborty (30)*** *in Chakrashala, Kachuai Union, Patiya Upazila,*

Chattogram. The left-hand frames reportedly capture the immediate emotional aftermath of the incident, including a distressed woman reacting near the scene, while the portraits on the right reportedly show Pankaj Shil and Tilak Chakraborty.

According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous reporting, the two minority youths encountered an organized group of armed individuals at night. The assailants reportedly ***blocked their path and launched a sudden attack with sharp weapons****, leaving both men critically wounded. Pankaj Shil later died from excessive blood loss while being transferred for advanced treatment, while Tilak Chakraborty remained in critical condition. Police reportedly detained one suspect and continued efforts to identify and arrest others involved.*

The available evidence supports characterizing the incident as a ***deliberate lethal assault****, even though the precise motive—and whether the victims' minority identity played any role—has not been established. This distinction is important. The case should not be dismissed merely as a routine encounter with suspected robbers: two young minority men were confronted, their path was blocked, and they were subjected to concentrated sharp-weapon violence severe enough to kill one and leave the other fighting for his life.*

For HRCBM, the death of Pankaj Shil represents more than the loss of one young man. ***Every such killing removes a son, brother, worker, friend, and future from a family and community already living with a heightened sense of insecurity.*** *The grief visible in the composite image helps convey what numerical statistics cannot: behind the report's total of 168 murders and mysterious deaths are families whose lives are permanently altered by sudden violence, and communities left questioning whether the law can adequately protect them and deliver justice.*

HRCBM therefore considers this case an important illustration of the urgent need for effective protection of minority citizens, prompt investigation of organized violent crime, prosecution of all those responsible, and careful examination of motive in every lethal attack involving vulnerable communities. Where a minority youth is killed in a coordinated armed assault, investigators must not stop at a generic label such as "robbery" or "snatching"; they should establish ***who organized the attack, why these particular victims were confronted, whether the assailants had prior knowledge of them, and whether any communal, local, economic, or other targeted motive was present.***

Figure 71. SL June-268: Bobin Tripura (32), an Indigenous Tripura man killed during a disputed security-force operation in Khagrachhari, 24 June 2026. Conflicting accounts regarding the circumstances of his death raise serious questions requiring independent and impartial investigation.

Note: *This composite image was published in connection with reports concerning two separate fatal incidents involving Indigenous men in Khagrachhari on 24 June 2026. The image appears to show a living portrait alongside the body of one of the deceased; however, the available published material does not clearly establish which individual is*

depicted in each part of the composite. HRCBM therefore recommends that the image ***not be specifically identified as Bobin Tripura unless the original source or family confirms the attribution****.*

According to HRCBM documentation, ***Bobin Tripura (32)****, an Indigenous Tripura man reportedly affiliated with the UPDF, was killed during a disputed incident involving Bangladesh security forces in the Ramgarh area. One account described an exchange of gunfire and reported the recovery of an AK-47 from the scene, while UPDF alleged that security personnel had positioned themselves in advance and carried out a pre-planned attack. The materially conflicting accounts leave unresolved questions regarding the circumstances of his death and whether the use of lethal force was lawful.*

The case is particularly significant because it concerns an Indigenous person killed in a remote and heavily securitized region where independent verification is difficult. HRCBM believes that the death warrants a genuinely independent and impartial investigation capable of examining all available forensic evidence, witness testimony, operational records, and the conduct of all State and non-State actors involved. The incident should not be characterized as an extrajudicial killing unless established by evidence, but the possibility of unlawful or extrajudicial lethal force cannot be dismissed without such an investigation.

Figure 72. SL 288: Tarakanda, Mymensingh — Renu Rani Sen, a Hindu Minority Woman Found Murdered After Going Missing, and Principal Suspect Mazharul Islam Following His Arrest, June 2026.

Note: *This composite image reportedly shows* ***Mazharul Islam****, the principal suspect apprehended by police in connection with the killing of* ***Renu Rani Sen****, on the left, and* ***Renu Rani Sen****, a Hindu minority woman, on the right. According to HRCBM*

documentation, Renu Rani Sen disappeared while returning home after taking her grandson to school. Her body was subsequently recovered concealed beneath water hyacinths in a pond near a culvert, reportedly bearing visible injuries. Police later arrested Mazharul Islam and stated that he provided a confessional statement before a court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The precise motive and possible involvement of any other persons remained subject to investigation.

A separate local report, citing what it described as preliminary police findings, alleged that Renu Rani Sen had been peacefully chanting ***"Hare Krishna, Hare Ram"*** *when the accused became enraged, strangled her, and subsequently concealed her body. HRCBM has not independently verified the reported contents of the confession or established this motive as fact. Nevertheless, the allegation is of exceptional gravity.* ***If substantiated, it would mean that a Hindu woman was killed for the peaceful manifestation of her religious faith—an extreme expression of religious intolerance implicating both the right to life and freedom of religion or belief.***

The allegation cannot be viewed entirely in isolation from Bangladesh's wider climate of religious intolerance. HRCBM has documented repeated incidents in which Hindus and other minorities have faced arrest, criminal prosecution, mob mobilization, or violence following allegations framed as "blasphemy" or "hurting religious sentiment," including cases in which the authenticity or authorship of alleged social-media material was disputed. At the same time, HRCBM remains deeply concerned about what it considers an ***unequal institutional response to religious intolerance****: allegations concerning minority religious expression can trigger rapid police action and detention, while public speeches, sermons, online campaigns, and social-media content that vilify minorities or foster hostility toward their faiths may circulate with limited visible accountability.*

This concern is consistent with a broader documented deterioration in the environment for pluralism and minority protection. Human Rights Watch has reported an alarming rise in mob violence involving political and non-State actors, including religious hardliners, and has separately documented how online hate speech and explicit calls to violence by influential figures can contribute to offline intimidation and attacks. USCIRF has identified the rise of religious extremism, the operation of laws criminalizing alleged blasphemy or religious offense, and shortcomings in local law enforcement among continuing challenges to freedom of religion or belief in Bangladesh.

HRCBM is particularly concerned that repeated and inadequately challenged rhetoric portraying Hindu worship, prayers, religious symbols, minority identities, or differing beliefs as offensive or illegitimate can gradually normalize intolerance. When inflammatory religious rhetoric is amplified through public gatherings, sermons,

political platforms, and social media—and when those promoting hostility perceive little prospect of accountability—the distance between hateful words, social exclusion, mob mobilization, and physical violence can become dangerously narrow.

*There is also a troubling question of **institutional asymmetry**. Human Rights Watch reported that police and courts continued pursuing cases against individuals accused of "hurting religious sentiment," while Bangladesh's cyber and criminal-law framework has historically enabled restrictions and prosecutions relating to religious expression. Yet the persistence of mob violence, attacks on minorities, and hate-driven online mobilization raises serious questions about whether comparable urgency is applied to those who incite hostility or violence against minority communities.*

*The murder of Renu Rani Sen therefore demands investigation not only into **who killed her**, but **why**. If the reported religious motive is confirmed, the case would stand as a chilling warning of what can occur when intolerance toward minority faiths moves beyond rhetoric and enters the realm of lethal violence. It would underscore the responsibility of the State not merely to prosecute an individual perpetrator, but to confront the wider ecosystem of **religious hatred, incitement, discriminatory enforcement, online vilification, and impunity** that can create conditions in which minorities increasingly fear that even the peaceful expression of their faith may expose them to harassment, criminalization, mob violence, or—in the most extreme circumstances—loss of life.*

5.6 Robbery, Extortion, and Attacks on Minority Livelihoods

A recurring pattern documented throughout January–June 2026 involves **robbery, extortion, armed snatching, attacks on businesses, theft from shops and homes, cattle and agricultural theft, destruction of livelihood assets, and other forms of economic coercion affecting members of minority communities**. The January–April registry and the subsequent May–June dataset together indicate that economic insecurity is not peripheral to the broader pattern of minority vulnerability documented in this report; in many cases, the victim's business, accumulated savings, livestock, agricultural production, jewelry, or place of work was directly attacked.

These incidents affect a wide range of livelihoods, including **gold and jewelry traders, small shopkeepers, farmers, livestock owners, teachers, journalists, professionals, transport workers, religious personnel, and other economically vulnerable families**. The May–June registry is particularly notable for the repeated appearance of minority-owned jewelry businesses and gold traders in cases involving major theft, armed robbery, attempted snatching, abduction, and looting. Other cases involve demands for large sums of extortion money, threats of death when payment was refused, forced signatures on

documents, alleged harassment linked to shop occupancy or rent, and attacks combining looting with attempts to seize commercially valuable property.

Not every robbery or theft involving a minority victim can be assumed to have been motivated by religion or ethnicity. Ordinary criminal motives may account for some incidents, particularly where offenders target businesses holding cash, gold, or other high-value assets. Nevertheless, the **frequency and diversity of economic attacks recorded across the registry raise an important protection concern**. Where minority business owners repeatedly face extortion, armed robbery, intimidation, abduction for financial gain, or attacks on shops and livelihood assets—especially in an environment where communities already report insecurity and unequal access to protection—the cumulative effect can extend well beyond the immediate financial loss.

Extortion is particularly damaging because it can transform economic activity itself into a source of vulnerability. A shopkeeper or business owner who is repeatedly pressured to pay money under threat may be forced to reduce operations, abandon a business, sell property, relocate, or accept the influence of locally powerful actors. In the most severe cases documented during May and June, alleged economic pressure was accompanied by **death threats, physical violence, abduction, impersonation of law-enforcement personnel, or severe psychological distress**. The registry includes an allegation involving a businessman who reportedly attempted suicide after prolonged extortion-related harassment, as well as the alleged abduction and robbery of a minority gold trader by individuals posing as members of an elite security force.

The pattern also has an important rural dimension. Theft of cattle, destruction or theft of crops, and attacks on agricultural property may deprive families of productive assets on which their survival depends. For economically vulnerable minority households, the loss of livestock, harvested crops, business inventory, or working capital can have consequences far greater than the nominal value of the stolen property: it can produce debt, loss of income, food insecurity, inability to finance education or medical care, and increased pressure to sell or abandon property.

HRCBM is therefore concerned that **economic violence can function as a mechanism of intimidation and displacement even where physical expulsion is not immediately visible**. Particularly where robbery, extortion, looting, business attacks, and land-related pressure intersect, authorities should investigate whether the objective was merely immediate financial gain or whether the conduct formed part of a wider effort to weaken a minority family's economic position, compel payment, obtain control over property, or pressure the victims to leave.

Effective protection requires more than investigating individual thefts after they occur. Law-enforcement authorities should identify recurring patterns, investigate organized extortion networks and repeat offenders, examine whether minority-owned businesses or particular occupations are being disproportionately targeted, protect complainants and

witnesses from retaliation, trace stolen assets, and ensure that locally influential individuals cannot use political or institutional connections to extract money or seize economic opportunities from vulnerable communities.

The representative January–June cases below illustrate the range of economic harms documented by HRCBM. They are illustrative rather than exhaustive and include both conventional property crimes and cases in which robbery, extortion, intimidation, abduction, physical violence, or pressure on property and livelihoods intersect.

Table 9. Representative Cases of Robbery, Extortion, and Attacks on Minority Livelihoods, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
5	2 Jan 2026	Chattogram	Armed robbery	Hindu family robbed at knifepoint; gold, cash, and phones looted.
10	4 Jan 2026	Lakshmipur	Gold snatching	Gold trader Shuvo Poddar reportedly robbed of gold ornaments.
16	5 Jan 2026	Chattogram	Large gold robbery	Hindu gold businessman reportedly robbed of approximately 350 bhori gold.
17	5 Jan 2026	Khulna	Business intimidation	Hindu-owned jewelry shop reportedly threatened by armed group.
20	6 Jan 2026	Narayanganj	Wedding-party robbery	Hindu wedding party reportedly robbed at weapon point.
33	10 Jan 2026	Cox’s Bazar	Armed robbery	Hindu family home and shops reportedly looted.
47	15 Jan 2026	Magura	Household robbery	Hindu family robbed of gold and cash.
51	16 Jan 2026	Madaripur	Cash snatching	Bank DSR worker reportedly robbed of Tk 24 lakh.
72	20 Jan 2026	Narayanganj	Armed dacoity	Three houses reportedly robbed in same night.
85	23 Jan 2026	Bogura	Armed dacoity	Hindu dairy trader’s family reportedly beaten and robbed.
112	30 Jan 2026	Pabna	Extortion and attack	Family reportedly targeted for Tk 10 lakh extortion.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
184	14 Feb 2026	Thakurgaon	Organized theft	Teacher's home reportedly looted using incapacitating spray.
203	18 Feb 2026	Khulna	Armed attack on jewelers	Jewelry owner and son attacked with sharp weapons.
209	22 Feb 2026	Patuakhali	Armed dacoity	Minority family reportedly tied up and robbed.
May-3	2 May 2026	Lakshmipur	High-Value Robbery at Minority-Owned Jewellery Shop	Gold trader Rupan Shil reported that perpetrators arrived in a microbus, broke into his jewellery shop in Ramganj, and removed a safe containing gold, silver, and other property valued at approximately **BDT 3 million**.
May-5	03 May 2026	Bagerhat	Armed Extortion, Robbery, and Death Threats Against Minority Political Organizer	Proloy Majumdar, a minority individual reportedly involved in electoral organizing in Bagerhat-1, alleged that he was held at gunpoint by an influential local group, deprived of cash and his mobile phone, and ordered to pay **BDT 1 million** within a specified period. He was allegedly threatened with being forced to leave the country or being shot if he failed to comply. HRCBM also documented allegations that the same group had been associated with land-grabbing activities, raising concerns regarding the intersection of extortion, political intimidation, economic coercion, and minority vulnerability.
May-23	6 May 2026	Khulna	Sustained Extortion and Threats Against Businessman and Family	Hindu businessman Uttam Kumar Das and his family allegedly faced continuing extortion demands, an organized attack, and death threats from a criminal group in Rupsa Upazila.
May-31	10 May 2026	Chattogram	BDT 5 Million Extortion Demand and Threat of Shooting	Minority journalist and Hindu community organizer Biplob De Partha allegedly received calls and audio messages demanding **BDT 5 million** and

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				threatening that he would be shot if payment was not made within 24 hours.
May-75	19 May 2026	Khulna	Shop Vandalism and Looting Followed by Attempted Land Occupation	Businessman Nityananda Mahalder alleged that his commercial establishment was vandalized and looted and that repeated attempts were subsequently made to occupy the business property and land through threats and alleged administrative influence
May-130	30 May 2026	Faridpur	Deliberate Destruction of Fish-Farming Livelihood	Minority fish farmer Animesh Sarkar alleged that four fish enclosures were deliberately poisoned, destroying a large quantity of fish and causing losses estimated at approximately **BDT 6 million**.
June-243	20 June 2026	Dhaka	Abduction and Robbery of Gold Trader by Persons Impersonating RAB	Gold trader Pradip Karmakar was allegedly forced into a microbus by individuals posing as RAB personnel and robbed of gold, silver, and cash. Detective Branch police reportedly arrested five suspects and recovered false identification cards and equipment.

Figure 73. SL 5: Robbers reportedly broke into a Hindu minority family's home and looted 15 bhori of gold, Tk 12,000, and five mobile phones.

Figure 74. SL 17 (video grab): A crowd gathers outside Shyama Diamond, a minority-owned jewelry business in Khulna, after a group of 10–15 armed individuals reportedly entered the shop searching for the owner and created panic. The shop's emergency alarm was triggered for the first time in its 67-year history, forcing the owners to close the premises and alert police. The incident reflects the vulnerability of minority-owned businesses to armed intimidation, livelihood insecurity, and economic coercion.

Figure 75. SL 33: Armed robbery targeting a Hindu family and minority-owned shops in Nathpara, Harbang Union, Chakaria, Cox's Bazar. According to HRCBM documentation, a group of armed robbers reportedly entered the home of Sagar Dhar before dawn, assaulted family members, seized keys, and looted approximately 15 bhori of gold ornaments and Tk 2.5 lakh in cash. In the same incident, two local grocery shops owned by Mintu Nath and Bijoy Nath were also reportedly broken into and looted, including 25 sacks of rice and other goods. The incident reflects serious concerns over minority household security, livelihood vulnerability, armed intimidation, and protection failures in minority-populated areas.

Figure 76. SL May-3: Ramganj, Lakshmipur — Minority Gold Trader Rupan Shil Breaks Down Following a Devastating Robbery That Stripped His Family Business of Its Gold, Silver, and Safe, May 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Rupan Shil****, proprietor of the minority-owned jewellery shop* New Apon Shilpaloy *in Ramganj, Lakshmipur, visibly overcome with emotion and being comforted following a major nighttime robbery that devastated his business and placed his family's economic future in jeopardy. According to HRCBM documentation, perpetrators allegedly broke the shop's shutter locks and removed an entire safe containing gold and silver ornaments. CCTV footage reportedly indicated that the perpetrators arrived in a white microbus, leading local residents to describe the operation as a planned robbery rather than an opportunistic theft. Rupan Shil estimated his losses at approximately* ***BDT 3 million*** *and stated that the small business was the means by which he supported his family.*

Contemporaneous reporting conveys the scale of the family's devastation. One report stated that the stolen property included approximately six bhori *of gold and 100* bhori *of silver and quoted the family as explaining that the business had been operated partly through borrowed money. Rupan Shil's wife described the loss as leaving the family with virtually nothing and questioned how they would now support their two daughters. The precise monetary estimates vary between reports, but the central fact is consistent: the*

robbery represented the sudden destruction of a small family's accumulated business capital and livelihood.

The incident took an even more disturbing turn with reports that ***Farid (44), the night watchman responsible for the market area, was found dead on the Ramganj-Hajiganj road following the robbery, with his hands, feet, and mouth reportedly bound with tape****. Local accounts raised the possibility that he had witnessed the robbery, was abducted, and was subsequently killed, although the precise circumstances required police investigation. The combination of an organized break-in, removal of a heavy safe, use of a vehicle, and the reported abduction and killing of a night watchman points to a level of planning and violence far beyond ordinary petty theft.*

For HRCBM, the significance of this case extends beyond the loss suffered by one jewellery trader. Across its January–June registry, HRCBM has documented recurring incidents involving robbery, extortion, looting, destruction of businesses, attacks on traders, theft of livelihood assets, and forcible occupation of minority-owned property. External reporting has likewise documented a broader pattern in which minority homes, shops, businesses, and other property have repeatedly come under attack. Human Rights Watch reported that, following the political upheaval of 2024, criminals and political actors attacked minority shops, homes, and places of worship; Reuters separately reported that hundreds of primarily Hindu homes and businesses were vandalized during the immediate post-August 2024 unrest.

The pattern continued beyond that initial period. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council reported for 2025 ***102 incidents involving attacks, vandalism, looting, or arson affecting homes and businesses; 38 incidents involving abduction, extortion demands, or torture; and 66 incidents involving forcible occupation of homes, land, or business establishments****. Human Rights Watch's 2026 country report also continued to document attacks against religious and ethnic minorities.*

These cumulative patterns raise a serious human-rights question: ***are minority business owners being selected not simply because they possess valuable assets, but because perpetrators perceive them as easier to intimidate, less politically protected, less likely to obtain effective police intervention, or more vulnerable to being economically displaced after an attack?*** *Individual robbery cases cannot, without evidence, be attributed automatically to communal motivation. Nor does the available evidence establish a centrally orchestrated national campaign to economically weaken minorities. However, when minority-owned shops are repeatedly robbed or looted, businesses are attacked after extortion demands, livelihood assets are destroyed, and land or commercial premises are subsequently subjected to occupation attempts, the cumulative effect can*

resemble a process of ***economic attrition*** *even where the motive in every individual case differs.*

The image of Rupan Shil breaking down therefore captures an aspect of minority persecution that statistics alone often conceal. Economic violence does not end when the perpetrators leave the scene. A stolen safe may represent years of accumulated savings, borrowed capital, customers' entrusted jewellery, children's education, medical security, and an entire family's means of survival. ***Destroying a minority family's livelihood can achieve through economic pressure what physical displacement achieves through force: it can make remaining in a community increasingly difficult, insecure, and ultimately unsustainable.***

HRCBM therefore urges authorities to examine patterns of robbery and extortion affecting minority businesses not only as isolated property crimes, but also for evidence of ***repeat targeting, organized criminal networks, political protection, prior extortion demands, discriminatory victim selection, and links between economic attacks and subsequent attempts to acquire or occupy minority-owned property****. Where such connections exist, the crime is no longer merely a robbery—it may become part of a broader mechanism of intimidation, dispossession, and forced economic marginalization.*

Figure 77. SL May-23. Reported victim of an extortion-linked attack in Rupsha, Khulna, showing visible injuries after the alleged assault; at right, his injured mother is seen in a medical setting following the same reported attack on the family. According to HRCBM, the incident followed a reported demand for ***BDT 200,000*** *and was accompanied by threats, intimidation, and obstruction affecting the family and their under-construction shops.*

Note: *This image relates to HRCBM's documentation of a reported attack on a Hindu businessman and his family in* ***Rupsha Upazila, Khulna****. According to the complaint submitted to HRCBM, the victim was assaulted after refusing an extortion demand, while his mother and younger brother were also reportedly injured. The attackers allegedly threatened the family, stopped work on* ***three under-construction shop structures*** *in front of the family home, and created an atmosphere of fear that hindered access to police protection and legal remedy.*

This case illustrates a broader pattern in which violence against minorities is used not only to inflict physical harm but also to undermine ***economic survival****. When extortion, intimidation, and repeated threats are directed at small business owners and their families, the result can be far more than a single criminal incident: livelihoods are interrupted, investment is halted, family income becomes uncertain, and already vulnerable minority households are pushed toward deeper insecurity. If such attacks continue without accountability, they risk accelerating the* ***economic weakening, forced dependence, and gradual displacement*** *of minority communities across Bangladesh.*

Figure 78. SL May-31 Chattogram — Chattogram — Photograph reportedly showing Mobarak Hossain Emon, identified in published reporting as the alleged source of a BDT 5 million extortion demand and explicit shooting threat against minority journalist and Hindu community organizer Biplob Dey Partha, May 2026.

Note: *The image, published by a local news outlet and identified there as depicting* ***Mobarak Hossain Emon****, reportedly shows the alleged threat-maker posing with what appears to be a firearm. According to HRCBM documentation and multiple contemporaneous news reports,* ***Biplob Dey Partha****, a senior journalist and Acting General Secretary of the central Janmashtami Celebration Council, received a WhatsApp call from a foreign number demanding* ***BDT 5 million in extortion money****. After he refused to pay, he*

was allegedly given a 24-hour ultimatum and threatened with being shot so extensively that, according to the reported audio threat, even his family would be unable to count the bullets. Biplob Dey Partha subsequently filed a General Diary with Kotwali Police Station and expressed serious concern for his and his family's safety.

The case illustrates how ***extortion can become a form of psychological terror and coercive control****, particularly when the victim is both a member of a religious minority and a visible community representative. The available evidence does not yet establish that Biplob Dey Partha was selected specifically because he is Hindu; however, his dual identity as a journalist and senior Hindu community organizer makes the threat especially significant from a human-rights perspective. When minority businesspeople, journalists, professionals, and community leaders are confronted with large extortion demands backed by credible threats of lethal violence, the consequences extend well beyond the immediate victim. Such intimidation can silence public voices, discourage community leadership, constrain economic activity, and reinforce the perception that visible minority citizens can be threatened with limited fear of accountability.*

HRCBM is particularly concerned by the recurring presence of ***extortion, armed intimidation, death threats, and attacks on minority livelihoods*** *across its registry. Individual cases may arise from organized criminal motives rather than proven communal intent, but minority status may still increase vulnerability where perpetrators perceive victims as politically less protected, socially isolated, economically exploitable, or reluctant to seek police protection because of fear of retaliation. The critical question for investigators is therefore not only whether an extortion demand occurred, but also* ***why a particular victim was selected, whether the targeting formed part of a repeated pattern, and whether political influence, minority identity, community visibility, or perceived institutional vulnerability contributed to that selection****.*

For minority communities, unchecked extortion can function as a form of ***economic and social attrition****. A business owner may abandon an enterprise; a journalist may censor himself; a community organizer may withdraw from public life; and families may consider relocation when the alternative is to continue living under threats of violence. If organized criminal networks are permitted to impose such demands with impunity, the cumulative effect can be the gradual weakening of minority economic independence, public participation, and community leadership.*

The reported threat against Biplob Dey Partha therefore represents more than a demand for money. It demonstrates how ***organized criminal intimidation, access to weapons, transnational communications, and threats of spectacular violence can combine to place minority citizens and community representatives under extraordinary pressure****. HRCBM calls for a comprehensive investigation into the individuals and networks responsible, including digital and financial tracing of the extortion demand, and for effective protection of the victim and his family.*

Figure 79. SL May- 75: Batiaghata, Khulna — Minority Businessman Nityananda Mohalder, Reportedly Seen Receiving Medical Attention Amid Continuing Allegations of Looting, Forcible Occupation of His Business Property and Land, and Threats Against His Family.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***Nityananda Mohalder****, a minority businessman from Batiaghata, Khulna, seated in what appears to be a medical examination or treatment setting, with his foot visibly bandaged. HRCBM documentation identifies Mohalder as the proprietor of* ***Messrs Gosai Enterprise****, a long-established multi-sector business, and*

records his allegations of repeated attempts to seize or occupy his shop and adjoining property, including vandalism and looting, subsequent attempts to fill and occupy the land, and continuing threats and intimidation directed at his family.

According to HRCBM's documentation, the dispute did not end with the initial reported attack on the business. Mohalder alleged that after earlier vandalism and looting, further attempts were made in April 2026 to take physical control of the property by depositing soil and undertaking construction activity. Police reportedly intervened at one stage to stop the work, yet the family subsequently alleged that occupation efforts continued through local political and administrative influence, leaving them in a state of continuing insecurity. Contemporary reporting similarly describes allegations of forced occupation of the minority-owned business property and the family's fear for its safety.

The photograph adds a human dimension to what might otherwise be described merely as a "property dispute." For a minority family whose livelihood is tied to a shop, land, and accumulated business assets, repeated looting, threats, obstruction of business activity, and attempted occupation can place the entire household's economic survival at risk. The loss of commercial premises or productive property can mean the loss of income, savings, employment, and the ability to remain securely rooted in the community.

HRCBM views cases such as this as illustrating the intersection between ***economic violence and dispossession****. Where minority-owned businesses are repeatedly attacked or looted and the same property is subsequently subjected to occupation attempts, authorities should examine whether the objective extends beyond ordinary criminal gain to the gradual removal of the victim's economic and physical control over the property. If such patterns continue without effective protection and accountability, minority families may face increasing pressure to abandon businesses, sell property under distress, relocate, or leave areas where they no longer believe their livelihoods and property can be protected.*

The precise cause of the injury visible in the photograph cannot be established from the image alone. Nevertheless, taken together with the documented allegations of repeated intimidation, looting, property occupation, and continuing insecurity, the case demonstrates how attacks on minority livelihoods can produce consequences extending far beyond financial loss—affecting ***physical security, economic independence, family stability, and ultimately the ability of minority communities to remain on their land and sustain a viable future in Bangladesh.***

Figure 80. SL May-130: Faridpur — Mass Fish Death Following the Alleged Deliberate Poisoning of Four Ponds Operated by Minority Hindu Fish Farmer Animesh Sarkar, May 2026.

Note: *The image shows an extensive accumulation of dead fish floating across the surface of one of the ponds associated with* ***Animesh Sarkar****, a minority Hindu fish farmer in Faridpur. According to HRCBM documentation, unidentified individuals allegedly introduced toxic substances into four fish ponds during the night, resulting in the destruction of virtually the entire fish stock. The victim estimated his losses at approximately* ***BDT 6 million*** *and reported that fish farming constituted his family's principal source of livelihood. HRCBM further documented his allegation that the destruction was a deliberate and premeditated act connected to prior enmity.*

The scale of destruction visible in the image illustrates the devastating economic consequences of an attack on productive livelihood assets. Years of labor, accumulated savings, borrowed capital, and anticipated future income can be erased in a single night, while loans and financial obligations remain. For the affected family, the loss therefore extends far beyond the dead fish visible in the pond: it threatens ***household income, debt repayment, economic independence, and long-term financial security****.*

The available evidence does not presently establish that Animesh Sarkar was targeted specifically because of his Hindu identity, and the identity and motive of those responsible require impartial investigation. Nevertheless, the case is highly relevant to the broader

pattern documented in this report. Alongside robbery, extortion, looting, attacks on minority-owned businesses, and attempts to occupy property, the deliberate destruction of income-producing assets can inflict a form of ***economic devastation that places minority families at heightened risk of indebtedness, dependency, and eventual displacement****.*

For HRCBM, this case underscores why attacks on minority livelihoods should not be treated merely as isolated property offences. Where productive assets are deliberately destroyed, investigators must examine the underlying motive, any history of threats or disputes, the identities of those responsible, and whether the victim's minority status or perceived vulnerability contributed to his selection. ***Economic security is inseparable from the ability of minority communities to remain rooted in their homes and communities; when livelihoods are repeatedly destroyed without effective accountability, the long-term consequence can be the gradual erosion of their capacity to remain economically viable in Bangladesh.***

Figure 81. SL 243: Ashulia–Savar, Dhaka — Five Suspected Members of an Organized Robbery Group Arrested After Allegedly Impersonating RAB Personnel to Abduct and Rob Gold Trader Pradip Karmakar, June 2026.

Note: *The image reportedly shows* ***five suspects arrested by Dhaka District Detective Police*** *in connection with an organized robbery in which the perpetrators allegedly impersonated members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). The men are shown in RAB-marked attire associated with the alleged impersonation scheme. According to police, investigators recovered items including* ***three false RAB identification cards, five RAB-***

marked black jackets, five caps, a microbus, six number plates, a walkie-talkie, handcuffs, a pistol cover, and a toy pistol *during the operation.*

According to the reported case, gold trader ***Pradip Karmakar*** *was returning home after closing his shop while carrying approximately* ***three bhori of gold, 40 bhori of silver, and BDT 70,000 in cash****. A group allegedly posing as RAB personnel stopped him, blindfolded him, forced him into a microbus, robbed him of the gold, silver, and cash, and later abandoned him in the Bhabanipur area. Police subsequently arrested five alleged members of the group and reported that some of those detained were suspected of involvement in similar crimes committed elsewhere while impersonating members of RAB or the Detective Branch.*

The case demonstrates a particularly dangerous form of organized economic predation: ***criminals allegedly exploiting the appearance and authority of State security institutions to compel compliance, abduct a business owner, and seize the assets on which his livelihood depends****. A victim confronted by individuals apparently representing an elite law-enforcement agency may have little reason—or practical ability—to resist, making impersonation of State authority a powerful tool of intimidation.*

For HRCBM, the incident is significant within the broader pattern of robbery, extortion, abduction, and attacks affecting minority traders and business owners documented in this report. While the available information does not establish that Pradip Karmakar was selected because of his religious identity, the targeting of a gold trader carrying business assets illustrates the acute vulnerability faced by small and medium-sized traders whose livelihoods require them to transport valuable goods or cash. Where minority-owned businesses repeatedly appear among victims of robbery, extortion, and violent economic crime, authorities should examine whether perpetrators perceive such individuals as ***high-value but comparatively vulnerable targets****, including whether limited political protection, fear of retaliation, or weak confidence in law-enforcement remedies contributes to their selection.*

The alleged use of false RAB identities also raises a wider rule-of-law concern. ***When criminals can imitate the uniforms, identification, equipment, and operational methods of State security forces, public trust itself becomes weaponized.*** *Such conduct can undermine confidence in legitimate law enforcement while exposing citizens—particularly economically vulnerable or minority business owners—to abduction, robbery, and potentially lethal violence. The case therefore warrants not only prosecution of the individual perpetrators but investigation of the wider organized network, the source of the false security-force materials, and any pattern of similar offences committed through impersonation of State authorities.*

5.7 Political, Electoral, and Institutional Intimidation

The registry documents a distinct pattern in which minority vulnerability extends beyond direct physical violence and property attacks into the spheres of **political participation, electoral activity, public administration, policing, employment, access to government benefits, legal proceedings, and enforcement of judicial protection**.

During January–June 2026, HRCBM documented cases involving alleged political intimidation and retaliation; threats connected to electoral participation or perceived political affiliation; arrests and allegedly false or retaliatory criminal cases; police and administrative harassment; efforts to remove minority professionals from employment through disputed allegations; denial or diversion of government benefits; alleged religious coercion linked to continued employment; harassment of human-rights defenders attempting to investigate minority complaints; failure to provide promised rehabilitation following election-related violence; and concerns regarding the conduct or accountability of State security institutions.

The registry further illustrates that institutional vulnerability often overlaps with other forms of abuse. A land dispute may involve allegations of political influence or police harassment; an extortion case may target an individual involved in election organizing; a criminal case may be alleged to have been fabricated or selectively pursued; an attack following electoral tensions may be compounded by the subsequent failure to provide compensation or rehabilitation; and a minority citizen may face pressure affecting employment or access to public benefits. Such incidents cannot always be captured adequately through a single statistical category.

These cases are particularly significant because the exercise of State or political power can magnify the vulnerability created by ordinary criminal violence. Where alleged perpetrators are politically connected, where victims fear approaching police, where administrative officials are accused of obstructing complainants or human-rights monitors, or where court orders and legal protections are not effectively implemented, minority citizens may perceive that formal institutions offer little practical protection.

The registry also raises concerns regarding **political neutrality and equal citizenship**. Minority citizens should be able to vote, organize politically, support candidates, remain politically unaffiliated, work in public institutions, and participate in civic life without being subjected to violence or retaliation based on real or perceived political affiliation. An election-related attack on a minority household remains a human-rights concern even where the family has no political affiliation at all; indeed, being attacked merely because perpetrators *believe* political opponents may be associated with the household illustrates how minorities can become vulnerable to political conflict irrespective of their actual political position.

Similarly, access to public services and employment must not depend on bribery, political loyalty, or religious conformity. Allegations that a poor minority beneficiary was deprived of an allocated government benefit after refusing or being unable to pay a bribe, or that an employee was pressured to change religion as a condition of retaining employment, raise concerns extending beyond individual misconduct to the principles of **non-discrimination, equality of opportunity, freedom of religion or belief, and impartial public administration**.

Legal and law-enforcement institutions also require particular scrutiny where minorities allege false cases, selective detention, prolonged police custody, politically influenced harassment, or ineffective enforcement of existing legal protections. Such allegations do not establish institutional wrongdoing merely by being made, and every case requires independent examination. However, where similar concerns recur across districts and institutional settings, they warrant systematic review to determine whether minority status, political influence, religious identity, or unequal access to power affects the ability of victims to secure protection and effective remedies.

The representative cases below illustrate different dimensions of political, electoral, administrative, and institutional pressure documented during May–June 2026. They are illustrative rather than exhaustive and include cases formally classified under different primary categories because their institutional or political dimensions are directly relevant to this section.

Table 10. Representative Cases of Political, Electoral, and Institutional Intimidation Affecting Minority Communities, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
13	5 Jan 2026	Kurigram	Administrative intimidation	Hindu woman official faced intense mobilization and removal demands.
45	14 Jan 2026	Dhaka/Savar	Religious-rights interference	Saraswati Puja banners reportedly removed at Jahangirnagar University.
56	16 Jan 2026	Pabna	Custodial death concern	Cultural figure Prolay Chaki died while in custody.
58	17 Jan 2026	Kishoreganj	Administrative Restriction on Minority Religious and Cultural Event	Authorities declined permission for the 96th traditional Chouddomadol Fair in Ashtagram, citing the upcoming election and overall security concerns, although religious kirtan was permitted to proceed. The nearly century-old fair is closely associated with Chouddomadol Puja, the Nath temple, devotional music,

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				and local haor cultural traditions. The decision raises concerns over whether minority cultural and religious events are being adequately protected during periods of insecurity rather than restricted as a precautionary measure.
61	18 Jan 2026	Rangamati	Political and Electoral Intimidation	Indigenous independent candidate Pahel Chakma reportedly received a death threat during the electoral period, raising concerns regarding candidate security and the ability of Indigenous citizens to participate freely in political and electoral processes. The available information should be further examined to determine whether his Indigenous identity or political representation of Indigenous interests contributed to the threat.
73	20 Jan 2026	Bogura	Attempted Collective Eviction and Institutional Displacement Concern	Nearly **1,000 members of the historically marginalized Harijan community** in Mokamtala reportedly faced eviction from a settlement where community members had lived for generations. The arrival of magistrates and police to implement an eviction order reportedly caused widespread panic. Following legal intervention, the High Court stayed the lower-court eviction order for six months and maintained the status quo while reviewing the dispute. The case raises serious concerns regarding collective displacement, housing and property security, due process, and the protection of an already marginalized minority community.
88	24 Jan 2026	Chattogram	False case / forced detention	Minority businessman reportedly detained under questionable case; CCTV removed.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
97	26 Jan 2026	Rangpur	Threat to withdraw case	Family of prior killing victim reportedly threatened to withdraw case.
100	26 Jan 2026	Dhaka	Armed Institutional and Economic Intimidation	Ashok Kumar Saha, a Hindu minority Board Director of Standard Bank PLC, was reportedly subjected to an armed intimidation campaign ahead of a scheduled bank board meeting. Assailants allegedly arrived at his Dhanmondi residence, delivered a written warning directing him not to attend the meeting, fired a shot, and removed the residence's CCTV DVR. Police reportedly investigated whether the incident was connected to an internal dispute involving the bank. The case raises serious concerns regarding the use of armed violence to interfere with institutional decision-making and the security of minority professionals in senior positions, although available evidence does not presently establish a religiously motivated attack.
104	27 Jan 2026	Naogaon	Alleged Suppression of Court Summons Leading to Arrest and Imprisonment	Several minority residents of Ramnagar and Baropoi villages in Manda Upazila alleged that court-issued summons were deliberately not delivered to them, preventing their scheduled court appearances. Arrest warrants were subsequently issued for non-appearance, after which police reportedly arrested and imprisoned the affected individuals. The allegations raise serious concerns regarding procedural fairness, access to justice, and whether manipulation or failure of the summons process was used to facilitate detention.
124	31 Jan 2026	Kishoreganj	Election-Day Attack and Intimidation of	Army reportedly raided Hindu-majority villages without disclosed legal basis.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
			Minority Candidate Supporters	
133	4 Feb 2026	Khulna	Institutional humiliation	Students allegedly had heads shaved after resisting political pressure.
175	12 Feb 2026	Gopalganj	Election-Day Attack and Intimidation of Minority Candidate Supporters	Supporters of Hindu independent candidate Govinda Chandra Pramanik were reportedly subjected to attack and intimidation in Kotalipara during election day. HRCBM records allegations that individuals affiliated with the BNP were responsible, creating fear among minority voters and disrupting the electoral environment. The case raises concerns regarding the ability of minority candidates and their supporters to participate in elections free from violence or coercion.
181	13 Feb 2026	Barishal	Election-related intimidation	Minority voters/families allegedly threatened before election.
189	14 Feb 2026	Satkhira	Political Coercion and Intimidation of Minority Family	The minority family of Mrityunjay in Khaskata village, Burigolini Union, allegedly faced intimidation, threats, and coercive pressure from local Jamaat activist Aminur Molla in connection with the family's political activities supporting the *Dhaner Sheesh* electoral symbol. The case illustrates how minority households may become vulnerable to retaliation or pressure because of their actual or perceived political choices.
198	17 Feb 2026	Khulna	Post-Election Attack on Hindu Household and Threat to Minority Business	During reported post-election violence in Dumuria Upazila, a Hindu household in Jabra village was allegedly attacked and vandalized. In the same upazila, a Hindu businessman was reportedly threatened with death and ordered to close his grocery shop. The incidents raise concerns that post-election retaliation may extend beyond political activists to minority homes and livelihoods,

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				producing both physical insecurity and economic pressure.
208	21 Feb 2026	Khulna	Political-Name Extortion and Intimidation in Minority-Populated Area	Minority schoolteacher Panchanan Mondal and other local residents in Dacope allegedly faced threats and harassment from Md. Azmir Rahman Sana, who was accused of invoking the name of Jubo Dal despite reportedly holding no official position in the organization. HRCBM documented allegations that the accused used the political organization's name to engage in extortion in minority-populated areas, intimidate teachers, and create instability following the national election. The case raises concerns regarding the exploitation of political affiliation—real or claimed—as a tool for extortion and coercion against vulnerable minority communities.
May-28	08 May 2026	Khagrachhari	Disputed Arrest and Alleged False Case Against Minority Journalist	Jiten Barua, a district correspondent for Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and Somoy Television and former president of the Khagrachhari Press Club, was reportedly arrested in circumstances that generated concern among journalists and minority communities. Eyewitness accounts recorded by HRCBM alleged that plainclothes officers forcibly removed him from a motorcycle and took him away. The case raises concerns regarding transparency of arrest, due process, legal harassment, and the protection of minority journalists and public-interest voices.
June-169	06 Jun 2026	Noakhali	Election-Related Attack Followed by Failure of Compensation and Rehabilitation	Mridul Babu, a Hindu minority farmer in Hatiya, alleged that his home had been attacked and vandalized during election-related tensions after assailants suspected that supporters of a rival political party were staying there.

SL	Date	District	Incident Pattern	Summary
				Subsequent reporting reportedly found no evidence that the family itself was politically affiliated. Four months later, the family alleged that promised assistance had still not been provided and that they were forced to rebuild their damaged home through loans. The case illustrates how minority families may suffer both immediate political violence and prolonged institutional neglect after the attack.

Figure 82. SL-13 The image shows Annapurna Debnath, a Hindu civil servant whose appointment as District Commissioner (DC) of Kurigram became the focus of demands for her removal in January 2026. Political opponents and Islamist hardline groups alleged that she had previously been associated with Chhatra League politics and questioned whether she could act impartially in an election-related administrative role. Scrutiny of the political neutrality of a senior election official is legitimate when based on credible evidence. However, the campaign also acquired a distinctly communal and religious dimension when hardline campaigners reportedly portrayed her as associated with ISKCON—the International Society for Krishna Consciousness—and invoked her Hindu religious connections as part of the effort to discredit and remove her from office.

Note: *The image shows* ***Annapurna Debnath****, a Hindu civil servant whose appointment as District Commissioner (DC) and District Returning Officer of Kurigram became the subject of a campaign demanding her removal in January 2026. While allegations concerning any public official's previous political affiliation or capacity for electoral impartiality may legitimately be examined through established administrative procedures, the campaign against Annapurna Debnath also acquired a troubling communal dimension. Published*

reporting shows that campaigners invoked an alleged association with ***ISKCON—the International Society for Krishna Consciousness****—and highlighted expressions of support from Hindu community figures as part of the controversy surrounding her appointment.*

For HRCBM, the case reflects a broader and increasingly dangerous pattern in Bangladesh in which ***Islamist hardline actors use labels such as "ISKCON member," "ISKCON-linked," or "agent of India" to stigmatize Hindu citizens whose views, professional advancement, public visibility, or minority-rights advocacy they oppose****. Such labels can transform an ordinary administrative, political, or professional disagreement into a question of religious loyalty and national allegiance. A Hindu citizen may consequently be forced to defend not merely professional qualifications or conduct, but his or her very legitimacy as an equal citizen of Bangladesh.*

HRCBM is deeply concerned that the repeated use of these labels contributes to an environment in which ***Hindu religious identity itself can be portrayed as evidence of political suspicion****. When a Hindu civil servant, professional, journalist, activist, or community leader can be branded "ISKCON-linked" or accused of serving Indian interests without credible evidence, the resulting smear can be used to mobilize public hostility, undermine employment and professional opportunities, demand removal from public office, or silence legitimate participation in civic and political life. The danger is particularly acute where such narratives are amplified by hardline religious networks and encounter little effective institutional resistance.*

This form of intimidation has consequences far beyond the individual targeted. It can foster a perception among Hindu citizens that advancement within government, education, public administration, or other institutions may expose them to communal scrutiny unavailable to members of the majority community. ***If a Hindu official's religious identity or alleged association with a lawful Hindu organization becomes sufficient grounds for questioning loyalty to the State, equal access to employment and public responsibility is fundamentally undermined.***

The invocation of the ***International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)*** *is particularly significant in this context. HRCBM has observed sustained efforts by Islamist hardline actors to portray ISKCON and individuals alleged to be associated with it as politically subversive or foreign-directed. In practice, the label can extend far beyond actual organizational membership: Hindu religious leaders, minority-rights advocates, public officials, and ordinary citizens may be characterized as "ISKCON" merely because they openly express Hindu identity, defend minority rights, or resist communal pressure. Such indiscriminate labeling risks turning a religious identity into a mechanism of political exclusion.*

HRCBM therefore views the controversy surrounding Annapurna Debnath as illustrating a wider challenge to ***equal citizenship and minority participation in public institutions****.*

Legitimate allegations of political partisanship should be investigated on evidence and according to the same standards applied to every public official. However, Hindu identity, attendance at a temple, association with a Hindu organization, or an unsupported allegation of ISKCON affiliation must never become a substitute for evidence of professional misconduct or political bias.

When hardline campaigns succeed in equating ***Hindu identity with foreign allegiance, ISKCON affiliation with subversion, and minority-rights advocacy with hostility to the State****, they create an environment in which minorities may feel compelled to suppress their religious identity simply to retain employment, professional opportunity, public office, or personal security. Over time, such pressure can systematically narrow the space available to Hindus in public life and strengthen the ability of religious hardliners to determine the boundaries within which minority citizens are permitted to participate in their own country.*

The fundamental human-rights question raised by this case is therefore one of equal citizenship: *whether a Hindu citizen of Bangladesh can hold public office, pursue professional advancement, practice religion openly, and participate in civic life without being required to prove that her faith does not make her disloyal to the State. HRCBM maintains that religious minorities must enjoy the same presumption of belonging, loyalty, professional competence, and equal opportunity as every other citizen of Bangladesh.*

Figure 83. SL 45: Pabna — Musician and Cultural Figure Proloy Chaki (60), Who Died While in State Custody Amid Serious Family Allegations of Inadequate Medical Care and Negligence, January 2026.

Note: *The portrait shows* ***Proloy Chaki (60)****, a prominent musician, music director, and cultural figure from Pabna who died while under State custody after being detained at Pabna District Jail. According to HRCBM documentation, Proloy Chaki became seriously ill while incarcerated and was initially taken to Pabna General Hospital before being transferred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment. His death while deprived of liberty raises serious questions concerning the State's heightened duty to protect the life and health of every person in its custody.*

Proloy Chaki had reportedly suffered from pre-existing heart disease and diabetes. His family alleged that, despite his known medical condition, he did not receive timely and adequate treatment while incarcerated. His son alleged that the family was not informed when he was hospitalized, that he was required to perform various tasks in prison despite medical advice restricting his movement, and that proper treatment was not provided after he suffered a heart attack. His brother further alleged that, after being transferred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Proloy Chaki was left for several hours on the floor of the CCU area. The prison authorities rejected allegations of medical negligence and maintained that he was promptly taken for treatment after becoming ill and subsequently transferred for advanced medical care. These materially differing accounts make an independent investigation particularly important.

The circumstances of his detention also warrant scrutiny. Contemporary reporting states that Proloy Chaki was arrested from his home on ***16 December 2025*** *and subsequently shown arrested as a suspect in a case concerning violence during the anti-discrimination student movement. His relatives maintained that he was* ***not a named accused in the original First Information Report*** *and stated that, although family members had advised him to leave for a safer location, he remained at home because he did not believe he had participated in the alleged violence. Proloy Chaki was also politically affiliated with the Awami League and served as Cultural Affairs Secretary of its Pabna district unit, while fellow cultural figures emphasized that beyond politics he was widely known as a dedicated musician and cultural activist.*

For HRCBM, the central human-rights concern is not resolved merely by stating that Proloy Chaki had pre-existing illnesses. ***Once an individual is placed in State custody, the State assumes direct responsibility for ensuring access to appropriate medical assessment, necessary medication, timely referral, emergency treatment, and conditions compatible with the detainee's known health needs.*** *A custodial death does not by itself establish unlawful killing or negligence; however, where relatives allege delayed treatment, inappropriate prison duties, inadequate communication with the family, and deficient hospital care, those allegations require transparent examination rather than administrative dismissal.*

The case also arises within a troubling broader context of deaths in custody in Bangladesh. The contemporaneous Samakal report cited data from Ain o Salish Kendra indicating that ***107 people reportedly died in prison custody during 2025, compared with 65 in 2024****. While these aggregate figures do not determine what happened to Proloy Chaki individually, they reinforce the need for systematic scrutiny of prison healthcare, emergency referral procedures, medical independence, and accountability for preventable deaths.*

Proloy Chaki's death therefore represents more than the loss of a well-known musician. It raises fundamental questions about ***the treatment of politically implicated detainees, the right to adequate healthcare in custody, due process, and the accountability of institutions exercising complete physical control over a person's life****. When a detainee with known serious medical conditions dies after allegations that necessary care was delayed or inadequate, the burden falls on the responsible institutions to provide a complete, credible, and independently verifiable account of the treatment provided and the circumstances leading to death.*

For minority communities and other politically or socially vulnerable groups, confidence in the justice system depends not only on whether arrests are legally justified but also on what happens ***after the prison gates close****. HRCBM therefore considers an independent and impartial investigation into Proloy Chaki's death essential to determine whether his medical needs were adequately addressed, whether any delay or negligence contributed to his deterioration, and whether all custodial and medical authorities fulfilled their obligations to protect his life.* ***No person's political affiliation, minority identity, or status as an accused or detainee diminishes the State's obligation to preserve life and ensure humane treatment in custody.***

Figure 84. SL 73: Residents of the sweeper colony in Mokamtala, Shibganj, Bogura, protest against an alleged attempt to evict the community without prior legal notice, raising serious concerns over housing rights, due process, and the security of a long-settled minority settlement.

***Note:** The image shows residents of the **Harijan community in Mokamtola, Shibganj, Bogura**, gathered in protest amid an attempted eviction from the settlement in which their community has reportedly lived for **centuries**. Women and other residents can be seen sitting on the road while members of the community gather around them—an image that captures the collective fear of families confronting the possible loss of not merely individual houses, but an entire community space built and sustained across generations.*

*According to HRCBM documentation, residents alleged that the attempted eviction occurred without adequate prior notice, consultation, rehabilitation planning, or alternative housing arrangements, causing widespread fear and uncertainty among families, including women, children, and elderly residents. Subsequent reporting provides an important legal context: nearly **1,000 members of the Harijan community** were reportedly facing eviction from Mokamtola, where they had lived for centuries. Magistrates and police arrived to implement an eviction order issued following civil litigation over the land, but the residents'*

distress led initially to a temporary reprieve. On 26 January 2026, the High Court stayed the eviction order for six months and maintained the status quo while reviewing the dispute.

For HRCBM, this case cannot be understood merely as an ordinary land or possession dispute. It concerns a historically marginalized community whose members have contributed for generations to some of the most essential—and frequently most stigmatized—sanitation and cleaning work in Bangladesh, while continuing to face severe social exclusion, insecure housing, unsafe employment, and limited access to services. Research presented in Bangladesh in May 2026 identified ***housing insecurity, dangerous sanitation work, inadequate healthcare and social protection, educational barriers, and job insecurity*** *among the major challenges confronting Harijan communities. Community representatives specifically called for permanent housing, secure land tenure, protection from forced eviction, and recognition of their dignity and equal citizenship.*

The vulnerability is deeply structural. Amnesty International has documented how Dalit sanitation workers in Bangladesh, particularly women, experience intersecting ***marginalization, economic exclusion, inadequate access to water and sanitation, and insecure land tenure****. Amnesty further found that failures to account for these barriers can leave Dalit communities excluded even from government assistance and protection mechanisms.*

Against that background, the threatened displacement of the Mokamtola community carries consequences far beyond relocation. For families already living at the margins of society, ***a home is also a social network, a connection to employment, access to schools, proximity to places of worship, community support for elderly residents, and one of the few forms of security available across generations****. Removing an entire community without adequate consultation, secure alternative housing, livelihood protection, and rehabilitation risks breaking those networks in a single administrative act.*

The involvement of magistrates and police in attempting to execute the eviction order also gives the case an important institutional dimension. While the existence of a judicial land dispute means the eviction should not be described as an unlawful government action without qualification, the threatened displacement was being carried out through ***State machinery****. HRCBM therefore considers it essential that any resolution satisfy not only property law but also the State's human-rights obligations toward a historically disadvantaged community. The subsequent intervention of the High Court demonstrates precisely why effective judicial safeguards are indispensable when collective displacement may otherwise occur.*

The Mokamtola case is also not occurring in isolation. Other Harijan communities in Bangladesh have faced recurring threats of eviction and housing insecurity. In Barishal, residents of a Harijan colony who said their community had served the city's sanitation needs for more than a century faced eviction fears in 2025, while the High Court subsequently intervened in a separate century-old Harijan-colony eviction dispute. In

Dhaka's Miranzilla Harijan Colony, families similarly protested displacement without adequate rehabilitation, with residents questioning where they could go after generations of service and residence.

Taken together, these recurring cases raise a profound question of ***internal displacement and equal citizenship****. Communities historically confined to stigmatized occupations should not, after generations of performing essential public services, find themselves simultaneously excluded from secure land tenure and vulnerable to removal from the very settlements in which successive generations have lived. Where the State has benefited from their labor but failed to ensure durable housing security, access to services, social mobility, and protection from discrimination, an eviction can compound decades of structural neglect.*

For HRCBM, the protest captured in this image is therefore more than resistance to the loss of physical structures. ***It is the struggle of a historically marginalized community to remain visible, rooted, and recognized as equal citizens in a country whose cities and towns have long depended on their labor while too often leaving their own housing, dignity, occupational safety, and future insecure.*** *Any attempt to displace such a community must be subjected to the highest standards of due process, meaningful consultation, non-discrimination, and protection against homelessness. Where relocation becomes legally unavoidable, no family should be removed until safe, adequate, culturally appropriate, and sustainable rehabilitation is secured.*

The Mokamtola case demonstrates what is at stake when institutional decisions intersect with entrenched social marginalization: ***for the majority, an eviction order may appear to concern land; for a community that has lived there for generations while enduring caste-based exclusion and economic insecurity, it can threaten the erasure of an entire way of life.***

Figure 85. SL 97: Taraganj, Rangpur — Bharati Rani and Her Son Joy Ravidas, Family of Mob-Lynching Victim Rup Lal Das, Who Reportedly Faced Death Threats After Refusing to Withdraw the Murder Case, January 2026.

***Note:** The image shows **Bharati Rani**, widow of Rup Lal Das, and their son **Joy Ravidas**, whose family has endured a continuing cycle of violence, loss, and intimidation. HRCBM had **previously documented and reported the mob lynching of Rup Lal Das and Pradip Lal in Taraganj, Rangpur**, where the two men were beaten to death after being wrongly suspected of theft. Bharati Rani subsequently filed a murder case seeking accountability for the killings, and police reportedly used video and digital evidence to arrest 12 individuals in connection with the case.*

*According to HRCBM documentation and contemporaneous reporting, the family's ordeal did not end with the killings. After one accused, **Rubel Paikar**, was released on bail, Bharati Rani alleged that he confronted her and her son in Taraganj market and pressured them to withdraw the murder case. When they refused, she alleged that they were verbally abused and threatened with death. Another accused was also alleged to have participated in the intimidation. The accused denied the allegations, while police confirmed receiving the family's written complaint.*

*The case therefore represents a **continuum of abuse documented by HRCBM**: first, the mob killing of two members of a minority family; second, the surviving family's attempt to seek justice; and third, alleged threats against the widow and her son intended to pressure them into abandoning the prosecution. This progression demonstrates how violence against minorities can be compounded by intimidation after the original crime, leaving surviving families trapped between the pursuit of justice and fear for their own lives.*

The photograph captures that second layer of victimization. Bharati Rani reportedly told journalists that she had filed the case in the hope of obtaining justice, but now feared for both her own life and that of her son. Joy Ravidas similarly alleged that persons connected to the killing continued to move freely in the locality while the family remained under pressure.

For HRCBM, this case raises serious concerns regarding ***victim and witness protection, police response to retaliatory threats, bail supervision, and the ability of minority families to pursue justice without exposing themselves to further danger****. A criminal justice system cannot provide meaningful accountability if complainants, witnesses, widows, and surviving children are left vulnerable to intimidation by persons accused of killing their family members.*

The broader consequences are equally serious. When minority communities see victims killed in mob violence and then observe surviving relatives allegedly threatened for seeking justice, a powerful chilling effect can follow. Families may become reluctant to file cases, identify perpetrators, testify, or cooperate with investigators. In this way, ***violence can produce fear, fear can suppress testimony, and suppressed testimony can deepen impunity****.*

The ordeal of Bharati Rani and Joy Ravidas therefore illustrates that, for many minority families, the human-rights violation does not end with the funeral. It can continue through court proceedings, threats, insecurity, financial hardship, and the constant fear that demanding justice may trigger further retaliation. ***The State's obligation is not only to investigate and prosecute the original killing, but also to protect the surviving family so that the pursuit of justice does not itself become another source of danger.***

Figure 86. SL 124: SL 124: Dhanpur Union, Itna, Kishoreganj — Composite images showing distressed Hindu villagers and the reported aftermath inside affected homes following an alleged late-night Bangladesh Army search operation in Hindu-majority villages, during which residents reported intimidation and physical assaults against civilians, including women and men, 31 January 2026.

Note: The composite images document the reported aftermath of a late-night Bangladesh Army operation conducted in **Hindu-majority villages of Dhanpur Union, Itna Upazila, Kishoreganj**, at approximately 1:00 a.m. on 31 January 2026. The images show distressed Hindu residents, women and family members recounting their ordeal, community members gathering in the aftermath, and household interiors left in disarray. According to HRCBM documentation and accounts from affected villagers, Army personnel entered multiple Hindu homes during the operation, subjected residents to intimidation, and physically assaulted civilians, including both women and men. The operation reportedly spread fear and panic throughout the affected villages and left minority families deeply shaken and insecure inside their own homes.

The anguish visible in these images reflects the experience described by the affected residents themselves. Families reported that armed State personnel entered their homes in the middle of the night and that ordinary villagers were subjected to fear, intimidation, and physical violence. HRCBM further documented that, at the time of its reporting, no clear and specific public explanation had been provided by the Bangladesh Army or other relevant authorities regarding the legal or operational basis for carrying out the operation in these Hindu-populated villages.

For minority communities, an incident of this nature carries consequences extending far beyond the immediate physical injuries. A home is ordinarily the last place in which

families expect to feel secure. When residents of minority villages report that State security personnel entered those homes at night and assaulted or intimidated civilians, the resulting trauma can fundamentally undermine confidence in the institutions responsible for their protection. The fear generated by such operations can affect entire communities, leaving women, children, elderly residents, and other vulnerable persons uncertain whether they can rely upon State authorities for safety and equal treatment.

The case raises grave concerns regarding **the use of State power, the treatment of civilians during security operations, accountability for alleged abuse, and the particular vulnerability of religious-minority communities when coercive operations are conducted without sufficient transparency**. The reported concentration of the operation in Hindu-majority villages makes it essential that any independent investigation examine not only the conduct of individual personnel, but also the basis upon which the locations were selected, the authorization and objectives of the operation, the proportionality of the force reportedly used, and whether the religious identity of the affected population played any role in their treatment.

HRCBM is particularly concerned that incidents in which minority communities experience alleged abuse at the hands of State security institutions can reinforce a wider climate of intolerance and insecurity. Minorities already confronting communal violence, land dispossession, religious hostility, and inadequate institutional protection may become even more vulnerable when they perceive that institutions possessing the greatest coercive power can themselves operate without meaningful accountability. Such experiences risk deepening alienation between minority citizens and the State and can create a lasting belief that their rights, homes, and physical security are less protected than those of other citizens.

The human consequences of the Itna operation are visible in the faces of the residents pictured here: **fear, distress, anger, and the shock of families who allege that the institutions expected to protect them instead became the source of their suffering**. For HRCBM, the incident therefore requires an independent, impartial, and transparent investigation capable of establishing the full circumstances of the operation, identifying any personnel responsible for unlawful violence or abuse, ensuring remedies and protection for affected families, and guaranteeing that future security operations in minority-populated areas are conducted strictly in accordance with law and international human-rights standards.

The reported events in Dhanpur Union underscore a fundamental principle of equal citizenship: **minority communities must never be made to fear the very institutions established to guarantee their security**. State authority carries with it an obligation of restraint, accountability, and equal protection. Where that authority is alleged to have been used to intimidate and physically abuse minority civilians inside their own homes, the State must respond not with silence, but with transparency, investigation, and justice.

Figure 87. SL 133: Dumuria, Khulna — Some of the Eight Students Whose Heads Were Reportedly Forcibly Shaved After Students Resisted Alleged Political Pressure at Dumuria Raghunathpur Multilateral Secondary School, February 2026.

***Note:** The image shows several of the students whose heads were reportedly forcibly shaved following an incident at **Dumuria Raghunathpur Multilateral Secondary School in Khulna**. According to HRCBM documentation and statements attributed to affected students and families, the school's headmistress allegedly pressured students to solicit votes for a particular electoral symbol. When students objected—reportedly with Hindu minority students among those resisting—the headmistress allegedly retaliated by taking **eight students to a salon and having their heads shaved**, subjecting them to public humiliation and severe psychological distress. HRCBM recorded the affected students as Satyajit Mondal, Monintikesh Mondal, Partha Sarkar, Arghya Bala, Hiraman Gayen, Kartik, Sakib, and Abid.*

The incident is especially disturbing because it allegedly transformed a school—an institution that should protect children from political coercion and discrimination—into a place where authority was used to punish students for resisting political pressure. According to HRCBM, the families submitted a written complaint to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, and the headmistress reportedly acknowledged taking the students to a salon and having their heads shaved, while admitting that her actions were wrong. The matter was subsequently placed under investigation.

*For the affected children, forcibly shaving their heads was not merely a disciplinary measure. It was an act capable of producing **public humiliation, loss of dignity, psychological trauma, and social stigma**. Children subjected to such treatment may be forced to return to classrooms and communities visibly marked by the punishment imposed upon them, extending the humiliation well beyond the moment of the incident.*

HRCBM further documented allegations that a Class 10 student, ***Dipti Sarkar****, had been struck repeatedly with a cane only days earlier, raising additional concerns about a broader environment of physical and degrading punishment within the institution.*

The alleged political dimension makes the case particularly serious. ***Children must never be used as instruments of electoral campaigning, nor should access to education become contingent upon obedience to the political preferences of teachers or administrators.*** *Where students are pressured to campaign for a political symbol and subsequently humiliated for resisting, the abuse extends beyond corporal or degrading punishment: it implicates freedom of conscience, political neutrality in education, child protection, and the misuse of institutional authority.*

For minority students, such an environment can create an additional layer of vulnerability. HRCBM documented concerns that Hindu students were particularly affected in the confrontation over the alleged political pressure. Where minority children believe that objecting to political demands may expose them to humiliation or punishment by those exercising institutional authority, the result can be a powerful chilling effect—teaching children at an early age that remaining silent may be safer than asserting their rights.

The image therefore captures more than the physical aftermath of forced head shaving. It represents the ***humiliation of children whose dignity and sense of safety were allegedly violated by an adult entrusted with their education and protection****. The case underscores the urgent need for schools in Bangladesh to remain free from partisan coercion, degrading punishment, religious discrimination, and retaliation against students who exercise their right to disagree.*

HRCBM considers the incident a serious test of institutional accountability. An effective response requires not only investigation of the individual conduct alleged, but also protection and psychological support for the affected students, enforcement of prohibitions against corporal and degrading punishment, and clear safeguards preventing teachers and school administrators from using their positions to exert political pressure on children. ***No child—minority or otherwise—should be compelled to surrender personal dignity, political neutrality, or freedom of conscience in order to remain safe within a classroom.***

Figure 88. SL 28: Khagrachhari — Journalist Jiten Barua Shown in Police Custody Following His Arrest in Khagrachhari, May 2026. The Arrest of the Minority Journalist and Former President of the Khagrachhari Press Club Prompted Concerns Over Alleged Politically Motivated Cases, Due Process, Press Freedom, and the Safety of Journalists.

Note: The photograph, published in connection with the case, shows journalist **Jiten Barua in police custody following his arrest in Khagrachhari**. Barua was serving as a Khagrachhari correspondent for **Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS)** and **Somoy Television** and had previously served as president of the Khagrachhari Press Club. According to HRCBM documentation and published news reports, he was detained on 7 May 2026 in the Shapla Chattar area of Khagrachhari town. Eyewitnesses alleged that two plainclothes police officers forcibly pulled him from a motorcycle and placed him in a police vehicle. He was subsequently produced before a court and sent to jail.

Police stated that Barua was wanted in connection with multiple General Register cases, including cases arising from earlier political clashes involving the BNP and Awami League and a case concerning an alleged attack on participants in the anti-discrimination student movement on 4 August. However, Barua's arrest generated significant concern among local journalists, who alleged that journalists were being broadly implicated in politically motivated or retaliatory cases and subjected to legal harassment. Published reporting further stated that several journalists in the district were facing multiple cases, while others were reportedly living in fear of arrest or attack.

The circumstances of Barua's arrest raise serious human-rights concerns extending beyond the detention of a single journalist. The alleged manner in which he was taken into custody by plainclothes officers, the existence of multiple politically connected cases, and allegations from fellow journalists that criminal proceedings were being used retaliatorily raise questions regarding **due process, transparency in law enforcement, freedom of**

expression, and the independence of the press. HRCBM has called for an impartial and transparent examination of the cases against him and an investigation into whether proper legal procedures and human-rights safeguards were observed during his arrest.

The wider context is particularly troubling. Chattogram Pratidin reported that Barua's detention intensified fear among journalists in Khagrachhari and cited claims that a number of media professionals were facing politically motivated cases or had gone into hiding because of fears of prosecution and violence. The report also stated that journalist organizations condemned the arrest and called for his release, while raising broader concerns about the alleged use of criminal cases to harass professional journalists.

For minority and Indigenous journalists working in politically sensitive regions such as the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the consequences of such an environment can be especially severe. Journalists who report on political conflict, land disputes, security operations, communal tensions, and minority-rights concerns may already operate under considerable pressure. When arrest, multiple criminal cases, or fear of retaliatory prosecution are added to this environment, the resulting chilling effect can extend far beyond the individual journalist, discouraging independent reporting and limiting the ability of vulnerable communities to bring abuses to public attention.

The image of Jiten Barua standing in police custody therefore represents more than an individual arrest. It reflects a broader concern about whether **criminal-law and law-enforcement mechanisms are being applied impartially or are becoming instruments through which journalists and other critical voices can be intimidated, silenced, or placed under prolonged legal pressure**. HRCBM emphasizes that membership in a minority community or the practice of independent journalism must never diminish an individual's entitlement to presumption of innocence, transparent legal proceedings, humane treatment, and equal protection of the law.

The Government of Bangladesh has a responsibility to ensure that every criminal allegation is investigated on the basis of credible evidence rather than political affiliation, professional activity, or retaliatory accusation. Where journalists are accused of criminal conduct, proceedings must remain transparent, evidence-based, and free from political interference. Equally, allegations that journalists are being systematically implicated in retaliatory or politically motivated cases require serious and independent scrutiny. Protecting press freedom requires not only the absence of direct censorship but also an environment in which journalists can carry out their professional responsibilities **without fear that the machinery of criminal justice will be misused to punish independent reporting or dissenting voices**.

Figure 89. SL 169: Hatiya, Noakhali — Minority Hindu Farmer Mridul Babu, Seen in a Video Statement Provided to HRCBM, Describing the Attack on His Family Home During the Election Period and the Continuing Hardship His Family Faced After Receiving No Effective Compensation or Rehabilitation Assistance, June 2026.

Note: *The image is a video still from a statement provided to HRCBM by* ***Mridul Babu, a minority Hindu farmer from Ward No. 6 of Burir Char Union, Hatiya Upazila, Noakhali****, whose family home was reportedly attacked and damaged during the election period. According to HRCBM documentation, the attackers allegedly believed that supporters of a rival political party were staying at his residence. The affected family maintained that they themselves had no political affiliation, and HRCBM recorded their account that subsequent visits by local and regional media also found no indication that the family was politically associated with any party.*

Mridul Babu's testimony illustrates how ***political and election-related violence can engulf an ordinary minority family regardless of its actual political involvement****. According to the family's account, their home became a target because of an assumption about who might be present there rather than because of any established political activity by the family itself. For a minority household, such violence creates a particularly disturbing form of insecurity: families may become vulnerable not because of what they have done, but because of political labels, suspicions, or affiliations imposed upon them by others.*

The family's ordeal did not end with the attack. According to HRCBM documentation, individuals reportedly promised assistance in repairing the damaged home, but no effective help materialized. Mridul Babu's family stated that, even after approximately four months, they had

received no government compensation or rehabilitation assistance and were ultimately forced to ***borrow money and rebuild their damaged home through their own limited resources****.*

This progression—from ***election-related attack, destruction of a minority family's home, promises of assistance, and eventual abandonment without effective rehabilitation****— demonstrates the wider human cost of institutional failure following communal or politically connected violence. For a poor farming family, destruction of a residence is not simply property damage. It can mean loss of savings, accumulation of debt, interruption of livelihood, prolonged insecurity, and the psychological burden of rebuilding a life that was violently disrupted.*

Mridul Babu's testimony is therefore significant not only as an account of an individual attack but also as evidence of the difficult position in which minority citizens may find themselves during periods of political instability. When political actors or groups treat minority homes as legitimate targets because of presumed political affiliation, and the State subsequently fails to provide timely protection, compensation, or rehabilitation, the victims experience ***two successive forms of harm: first the violence itself, and then the institutional absence that follows it****.*

The case also raises important questions about equal citizenship and State responsibility. Minority families affected by election-related violence should not be left to repair destroyed homes through personal debt while awaiting assistance that never arrives. Effective protection requires more than condemnation after an attack. It requires prompt investigation, identification and prosecution of those responsible, assessment of damages, meaningful compensation, rehabilitation assistance, and measures to ensure that victims can return to their lives without fear of renewed retaliation.

The image of Mridul Babu giving his account to HRCBM places a human face on this broader failure. ***Behind the statistics is a farmer whose family home was attacked, whose political identity was allegedly assumed by others, and whose family was ultimately left to bear the financial burden of rebuilding what violence had destroyed.*** *His testimony underscores the need for the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that minority families affected by election-related violence receive not merely promises, but timely protection, effective remedies, and meaningful rehabilitation.*

5.8 Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Vulnerability

The HRCBM registry includes multiple incidents affecting **Indigenous and ethnic minority communities**, including members of the Chakma, Tripura and other communities, particularly in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The documented incidents encompass killings and suspicious deaths, abduction, physical assault, threats, political intimidation, land-related conflict, alleged excessive or unlawful use of force, and broader community insecurity. These cases require separate consideration because the vulnerability of Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh is shaped not by a single form of discrimination, but by the intersection of **ethnic identity, ancestral land rights, political representation,**

security-force operations, armed conflict, displacement, economic marginalization, and limited access to effective remedies.

Bangladesh is home to a substantial diversity of Indigenous and ethnic communities. IWGIA's 2026 country assessment identifies more than **54 Indigenous Peoples speaking at least 35 languages**, while the 2022 census recorded approximately 1.65 million people belonging to Indigenous or ethnic minority communities; Indigenous organizations maintain that the actual population is considerably higher. Many live in the plains districts, while a significant population resides in the three CHT districts of **Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban**. UNDP describes the CHT as home to 11 distinct ethnic groups alongside the Bengali population, each maintaining its own language, culture and traditions.

A fundamental dimension of this vulnerability concerns **recognition and identity**. The Constitution of Bangladesh requires the State to protect and develop the culture and traditions of what Article 23A describes as "tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities," while Articles 27 and 28 guarantee equality before the law and prohibit discrimination on grounds including race. At the same time, Bangladesh does not officially recognize these communities through the terminology of "Indigenous Peoples," a position that Indigenous-rights organizations argue has implications extending beyond terminology to questions of collective land, political participation, self-governance, and other group rights.

Land, Ancestral Territory, and Displacement

For many Indigenous communities, particularly in the CHT, **land is inseparable from identity, culture, livelihood, spirituality, and collective survival**. Consequently, land loss cannot always be understood simply as an ordinary private-property dispute. Dispossession of ancestral territory can simultaneously undermine food security, traditional agriculture, community cohesion, cultural practices, access to forests and water, and the ability of future generations to maintain their distinct identity.

The unresolved implementation of the **1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord** remains central to this problem. The Accord established a framework intended to address the region's long conflict and distinctive administrative and land-related issues. UN human-rights mechanisms have previously expressed concern over insufficient implementation, particularly the failure to resolve large numbers of land disputes effectively and within a reasonable time. More recent Indigenous-rights assessments continue to identify the functioning of the CHT Land Commission, devolution of authority to CHT institutions, rehabilitation of internally displaced persons, and other major Accord commitments as unresolved or incomplete.

These unresolved questions create conditions in which an individual incident of land occupation, eviction, destruction of a home, or interference with cultivation may carry

consequences for an entire community. In 2025, UN Special Procedures also received allegations concerning land grabbing affecting the **Mro people in Bandarban**, including alleged impacts on rights to food, water, health, culture, housing and a healthy environment. Such concerns demonstrate how development projects, commercial interests, land administration and security structures can intersect with the ancestral-land rights of Indigenous communities.

Militarization, Security Operations, and Civilian Vulnerability

The security environment of the Chittagong Hill Tracts adds another layer of vulnerability. The region's history of armed conflict, the continuing presence of security forces, tensions involving Bengali settlers, and rivalries among Indigenous political or armed groups create a complex environment in which civilians can face risks from **multiple State and non-State actors**. Indigenous identity must never result in an assumption that an individual civilian is affiliated with an armed organization, nor should entire communities be subjected to collective suspicion because of the activities of particular armed groups.

This concern has become increasingly prominent internationally. An October 2025 communication by UN Special Procedures concerning the CHT referred to allegations of killings, disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, repression of peaceful protest, and racially motivated attacks involving the destruction and looting of Indigenous homes and businesses and displacement of families. These remain allegations requiring independent investigation, but their seriousness and recurrence demonstrate why security-force accountability and civilian protection are critical components of Indigenous rights in the region.

The experience of the **Bawm community** illustrates the danger of collective consequences arising from counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations. Amnesty International reported in December 2025 that, following mass arrests connected to alleged activities of the Kuki-Chin National Front in 2024, 59 Indigenous Bawm people remained detained without trial, including three children, while three of those originally arrested had died in custody amid concerns regarding access to adequate healthcare. Whatever legitimate security challenges the State confronts, criminal responsibility must remain **individualized and evidence-based**. Membership in an Indigenous community, family relationship, residence in a particular village, or perceived proximity to an armed organization cannot substitute for evidence of personal criminal conduct.

HRCBM's January–June 2026 documentation must therefore be understood against this wider context. Cases involving Indigenous persons who are killed, abducted, detained, threatened, or caught in security operations require careful investigation capable of distinguishing among **criminal violence, political factional conflict, security-force action, communal hostility, and land-related motives**. At the same time, competing accounts—such as an official claim of an armed encounter and a community allegation of an extrajudicial killing—must not be resolved automatically in favor of either narrative.

Such cases require independent investigation, preservation of forensic evidence, transparent disclosure of operational records, and credible accountability mechanisms.

Indigenous Women and Children

Indigenous women and girls may experience an additional intersection of **ethnic discrimination, gender-based violence, geographic isolation, poverty, and unequal access to justice**. Sexual violence or threats against Indigenous women can have consequences beyond the individual victim when fear of attack restricts women's mobility, access to agricultural land, education and employment. UN Special Procedures have specifically raised concerns regarding sexual and gender-based violence affecting Indigenous communities in the CHT and have noted the particular vulnerability of women and children in the context of alleged land-related and other human-rights violations.

Geographical isolation can further intensify these risks. Remote communities may have limited access to police stations, hospitals, courts, legal assistance and independent media. UNDP has also identified inadequate educational opportunities, limited market access and difficult terrain among the structural challenges confronting communities in the CHT. When violence occurs in such areas, the distance between the victim and an effective State institution can itself become an obstacle to justice.

Vulnerability Beyond the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Indigenous vulnerability is **not confined to the CHT**. A significant portion—and according to IWGIA, the majority—of Bangladesh's Indigenous population lives in plains districts. Communities including Santal, Garo, Hajong, Munda and others have also faced longstanding concerns involving land security, eviction, economic marginalization and difficulties securing recognition of customary relationships with land. IWGIA's 2026 assessment reported that Indigenous communities in the plains continued to experience land-centered attacks and forced eviction, demonstrating that ancestral-land insecurity is a national Indigenous-rights concern rather than exclusively a CHT issue.

The circumstances of the CHT nevertheless require particular scrutiny because **ethnicity, territory, historical conflict, security policy and unresolved political commitments converge in the same geographic space**. Nearly three decades after the 1997 Accord, continuing disputes over land, governance, displacement and security contribute to an environment in which even an apparently isolated killing, disappearance, eviction or assault may occur against a much deeper background of historical insecurity.

HRCBM therefore treats incidents affecting Indigenous and ethnic minority communities as a distinct analytical pattern while retaining each incident within its appropriate primary statistical category. This approach does not imply that every crime against an Indigenous person is ethnically motivated. Rather, it recognizes that the **consequences and surrounding vulnerabilities may differ substantially** when the victim belongs to a

community whose ancestral land, political autonomy, cultural identity, or physical security is already under sustained pressure.

The State has an obligation to protect Indigenous and ethnic minority citizens with the same effectiveness afforded to every other citizen, while also recognizing the distinctive circumstances affecting their communities. This requires protection of ancestral and customary land rights; meaningful participation in decisions affecting their territories; effective resolution of longstanding land disputes; protection of civilians during security operations; prevention of collective punishment; accountability for unlawful killings, disappearances, sexual violence and arbitrary detention; protection of Indigenous human-rights defenders and political representatives; and effective implementation of the commitments necessary to secure lasting peace and equal citizenship in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The central concern reflected in HRCBM's documentation is therefore not simply that Indigenous individuals continue to appear among victims of violence. It is that many live within a layered environment of insecurity in which loss of land, political marginalization, armed violence, security-force activity, displacement pressure and weak access to justice can reinforce one another. Unless these structural conditions are addressed, individual investigations alone will not resolve the deeper vulnerability confronting Indigenous and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh.

Table 11. Representative Cases of Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Vulnerability, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number.

SL	Date	District	Community / Victim	Summary
46	15 Jan 2026	Khagrachhari	Marma, Tripura and Chakma community members	Indigenous residents in Headman Para, Kamalchhari, were reportedly attacked during a land-related confrontation involving settlers, leaving several people seriously injured. **Bimal Tripura later died from injuries sustained in the same underlying attack.** The two SL entries should be presented together to avoid treating the initial assault and subsequent death as unrelated events.
60	18 Jan 2026	Bandarban	Mro Indigenous community	Attack on Mro villagers in Janalipara; at least 10 injured.
61	18 Jan 2026	Rangamati	Chakma political candidate	Minority independent candidate Pahel Chakma reportedly threatened.

SL	Date	District	Community / Victim	Summary
78	22 Jan 2026	Chattogram	Tripura individual	Gegenar Tripura reportedly chained and tortured for three days.
95	25 Jan 2026	Khagrachhari	Tripura / Indigenous victim	Bimal Tripura died after attack linked to land dispossession.
139	5 Feb 2026	Habiganj	Tea garden workers	Tea garden guards from minority community attacked and bound during theft.
169	11 Feb 2026	Moulvibazar	Tea garden worker	Ratan Shubhakar found with throat-slitting injuries in tea garden area.
June-266	23 Jun 2026	Bandarban	Tripura community of Naziram Tripura Para	Members of the Tripura community in Lama reportedly faced attempted land grabbing, an alleged attempted arson attack, and physical assaults. Indigenous students and community members subsequently organized protests demanding protection and accountability. The case directly illustrates the intersection of **ancestral-land insecurity, physical violence, displacement pressure, and community resistance**

Ethical Note: *Images are included for human-rights documentation and accountability purposes. Care should be taken to avoid unnecessary graphic exposure while preserving the evidentiary value of the documentation.*

Figure 90. SL 46/95: Wounded Indigenous community members and subsequent protests in Khagrachhari following a reported land-related attack against the local minority community.

Note: *The image series documents Indigenous community members injured in the **14 January 2026 violence in Kamalchhari Union, Khagrachhari**, together with subsequent scenes of protest and demands for justice following the death of **Bimal Tripura**, an Indigenous Tripura man who sustained critical injuries in the incident and died on **23 January 2026** while receiving treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital. HRCBM documented that **Thoihlaong Marma, Bimal Tripura, and Milon Chakma** were seriously injured when Indigenous residents were reportedly attacked while clearing a mango orchard in the Headman Para area amid a longstanding dispute over land.*

According to HRCBM's investigation, the violence occurred in the context of alleged attempts to dispossess Indigenous residents of land claimed by the community, and HRCBM characterized the incident as a coordinated attack connected to land grabbing. Police, however, publicly described the incident as a confrontation between two sides arising from a disputed land-ownership claim and reported that six people from both sides

were injured. Police subsequently arrested two persons in connection with the violence, while separate cases were reportedly filed by the opposing parties.

Bimal Tripura's death transformed an already serious land-related confrontation into a case involving the ***loss of an Indigenous life and intensified demands for accountability****. Four organizations active in the Chittagong Hill Tracts—the Democratic Youth Forum, Parbatya Chattogram Nari Sangha, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, and Hill Women's Federation—publicly condemned the violence and linked the incident to wider concerns over land dispossession and insecurity affecting Indigenous communities in the region.*

The images of wounded Indigenous residents, followed by community mobilization and protest, illustrate the layered human-rights consequences of unresolved land disputes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. For Indigenous communities, conflict over land can extend far beyond competing property claims: it can threaten physical security, traditional and ancestral relationships with land, livelihoods, community continuity, and the ability of families to remain safely in areas where they have lived and cultivated for generations.

The death of Bimal Tripura and the injuries sustained by other Indigenous residents therefore raise broader concerns regarding ***land insecurity, violence, protection of Indigenous communities, impartial investigation, and access to effective justice****. The conflicting accounts surrounding the origin and characterization of the confrontation further underscore the need for an independent and transparent investigation capable of establishing the circumstances of the violence, determining responsibility for the fatal injuries and other assaults, and examining the underlying land claims without intimidation or discrimination.*

This case illustrates how unresolved land disputes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts can escalate into ***physical violence, death, communal tension, and prolonged insecurity for Indigenous populations****. Bimal Tripura's death should not be reduced to a statistic arising from a property dispute. It represents the human cost of a wider environment in which Indigenous communities continue to report that insecurity over land and inadequate institutional protection can place both their ancestral territories and their lives at risk.*

Figure 91. SL 60: Composite images showing wounded Mro Indigenous community members and subsequent protests following a reported attack in Janalipara, Bandarban. According to HRCBM documentation, members of the Mro community were attacked, leaving several people injured and generating widespread fear, anger, and demands for justice. The incident reflects the layered vulnerability of Indigenous minorities in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, where land insecurity, ethnic identity, physical violence, and weak protection mechanisms converge to threaten community safety and dignity.

Figure 92. SL 266: Bandarban — Indigenous Tripura Students and Community Members March Through Bandarban Town on 23 June 2026, Protesting Alleged Land Grabbing, Attempted Arson, Violence, and Persecution Against the Tripura Community of Naziram Tripura Para in Lama. The Demonstration Reflects Growing Indigenous Resistance to Dispossession and Demands for Protection of Ancestral Lands, Security, and Justice in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

***Note:** The photograph shows Indigenous students and community members marching through **Bandarban town on 23 June 2026** in protest against reported attempts to seize land belonging to the Tripura community of **Naziram Tripura Para, Gajalia Union, Lama Upazila**. According to HRCBM documentation and published reporting, protesters alleged attempts to forcibly occupy ancestral and traditionally possessed Tripura lands, attempted arson, and physical attacks that left local residents injured. The procession began at Rajar Math, moved through Bandarban town, and concluded with a protest gathering in front of the Bandarban Press Club, where demonstrators demanded investigation, accountability, arrest of those responsible, and protection of Indigenous communities and their land.*

*The message carried by the protesters extends far beyond a single disputed parcel of land. Speakers at the demonstration alleged that Indigenous and ethnic minority communities across the hill districts have faced continuing attempts to dispossess them of ancestral lands and that families resisting such encroachment can subsequently face intimidation, violence, harassment, and other forms of persecution. The Naziram Tripura Para case therefore reflects one of the most fundamental human-rights concerns confronting Indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: **the connection between land dispossession and the continued physical, cultural, and communal survival of Indigenous communities**.*

*For Indigenous peoples, ancestral land is not merely an economic asset capable of being replaced by monetary compensation. It is intimately connected to **community identity,***

traditional livelihood, culture, language, social organization, spirituality, and the transmission of collective heritage from one generation to the next. *When an Indigenous community loses control over its ancestral territory, the consequences can extend from immediate homelessness and economic deprivation to gradual displacement, fragmentation of the community, and erosion of its distinct cultural existence. Repeated land loss can therefore create what HRCBM considers an* ***existential threat to the long-term survival of Indigenous communities as distinct peoples within their traditional homeland***.

The reported allegations from Naziram Tripura Para are especially serious because they combine several forms of vulnerability: ***attempted land dispossession, alleged arson, physical violence, intimidation, and pressure against residents who resist the loss of their land***. *Such a combination can produce a coercive environment in which families may eventually conclude that remaining on their ancestral land is no longer physically safe. Displacement achieved through fear, recurring violence, destruction of homes or property, or sustained intimidation can have consequences as devastating as formal eviction.*

The protest captured in this photograph is therefore also an assertion of ***collective survival and equal citizenship***. *Indigenous men, women, and young people took to the streets not simply to demand resolution of a land dispute, but to demand recognition that their communities have the right to remain safely on lands they regard as ancestral, to resist forcible dispossession without being subjected to violence, and to seek protection from State institutions on an equal basis with other citizens.*

HRCBM's wider documentation from January through June 2026 records Indigenous victims affected by ***land-related violence, killings, abductions, disappearances, attacks on women and children, political intimidation, armed conflict, and disputed security-force operations***. *Viewed together, these incidents demonstrate how multiple pressures can converge upon Indigenous populations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Land insecurity cannot be separated entirely from questions of physical security, displacement, political representation, militarization, access to justice, and the preservation of Indigenous identity.*

Where communities experience recurring allegations of land seizure accompanied by violence and intimidation, the State has an obligation to act before dispossession becomes irreversible. Authorities must investigate competing land claims impartially, prevent the use of violence to alter possession, protect residents from retaliation, prosecute criminal acts regardless of the identity or influence of the perpetrators, and ensure that Indigenous communities have meaningful access to legal and administrative remedies.

HRCBM is deeply concerned that ***continued dispossession, combined with violence and persistent insecurity, may progressively remove Indigenous peoples from territories upon which their communities and cultures have depended for generations***. *The disappearance of an Indigenous community from its ancestral land is not*

merely a change in property ownership; it can represent the destruction of an irreplaceable social and cultural ecosystem.

The allegations documented in this and other cases therefore demand scrutiny not only as individual criminal or property disputes but within the wider human-rights context of Indigenous survival in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Where attacks, forced displacement, persecution, or other serious abuses are alleged to form part of a broader or systematic pattern against a civilian population, those allegations warrant independent investigation under applicable international human-rights and international criminal-law standards. ***A legal determination of crimes against humanity requires proof of specific elements and cannot be presumed from an individual incident; however, the recurrence of serious allegations affecting Indigenous communities makes rigorous documentation, independent investigation, and accountability essential.***

The demonstrators pictured here embody a community refusing to disappear silently. Their protest represents a demand that ***ancestral land must not be taken through force, Indigenous families must not be driven from their homes through fear, and violence must not become an instrument for changing the demographic or territorial reality of the Chittagong Hill Tracts****. Protecting these communities requires more than responding after an attack. It requires effective prevention of land dispossession, protection from violence and displacement, enforcement of the rule of law, and a sustained State commitment to ensuring that Indigenous peoples can continue to live with dignity, security, and cultural continuity in their ancestral homeland.*

5.9 Blasphemy-Related Allegations, Religious Intolerance, and Criminalization of Minority Expression

A particularly dangerous pattern documented during January–June 2026 involves allegations of "hurting religious sentiment," blasphemy-related accusations, disputed or allegedly fabricated social-media content, and other claims of religious insult directed against members of minority communities. HRCBM documented **17 blasphemy-related incidents across 14 districts** during the reporting period.

Although Bangladesh does not formally maintain a single criminal offence titled "blasphemy," allegations of insulting religion or hurting religious sentiment can trigger criminal proceedings under various legal provisions, as well as rapid public mobilization, threats, mob violence, educational or professional sanctions, and pressure on law-enforcement authorities to arrest the accused. For minority citizens, therefore, a single accusation—whether substantiated, manipulated, fabricated, or based on disputed online material—can place personal liberty, physical safety, education, employment, family security, and community property at immediate risk.

HRCBM's documentation indicates that several such incidents originated with alleged Facebook posts, screenshots, messages, or other digital content whose authenticity, authorship, or context was disputed. In some cases, families and community members alleged that accounts had been hacked, fake profiles had been created, content had been manipulated, or accusations had been circulated without adequate digital-forensic verification. Nevertheless, minority individuals were reportedly arrested or subjected to intense public hostility before the underlying digital evidence had been transparently authenticated.

This pattern raises a fundamental due-process concern. **The mere circulation of a screenshot or accusation should not substitute for forensic verification of who created, controlled, uploaded, or distributed the content in question.** Before depriving an individual of liberty, authorities should establish digital provenance, account ownership, device access, timestamps, IP or platform records where available, and whether manipulation or impersonation may have occurred. Failure to conduct such verification can expose innocent individuals to criminal prosecution while leaving those who fabricated or weaponized the allegation unaccountable.

The danger frequently extends beyond the accused individual. Blasphemy-related allegations can rapidly become a form of **collective punishment**, exposing families, homes, businesses, temples, and entire minority neighborhoods to mob mobilization and retaliatory violence. The accused person's relatives may be forced into hiding, livelihoods may be destroyed, and communities may remain under threat even before any court has determined whether an offence occurred.

HRCBM is particularly concerned by what it considers an **institutional asymmetry in the treatment of religious expression**. Minority citizens may face swift arrest or detention following allegations that they offended majority religious sentiment, while inflammatory rhetoric, public vilification, and online campaigns directed against Hindus and other religious minorities may circulate with far less visible accountability. This perceived disparity can reinforce a climate in which minority religious expression becomes increasingly constrained while intolerance toward minorities is normalized.

The consequences are especially severe for students and young people. A religious-insult allegation can result not only in criminal exposure but also in suspension from education, removal from student housing, social ostracism, threats, and long-term damage to a young person's future. **SL 137**, involving student **Asim Kumar Dhar**, is therefore more appropriately placed in this section than under general institutional intimidation if the central allegation concerned religious insult. The case illustrates how an accusation

relating to religion can produce immediate institutional punishment before the underlying facts have been conclusively established.

HRCBM also notes that blasphemy-related accusations operate within a broader environment of growing religious intolerance. Where public rhetoric repeatedly portrays minority beliefs, worship, religious organizations, or differing theological views as offensive, disloyal, or illegitimate, accusations of religious insult can become especially dangerous. The combination of inflammatory rhetoric, social-media amplification, mob pressure, and rapid law-enforcement action can transform an unverified allegation into a life-threatening crisis within hours.

These cases must therefore be approached with particular caution and urgency. The State has a legitimate responsibility to protect communities from genuine incitement to violence and religious hatred, but that responsibility must be exercised consistently with **freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, presumption of innocence, due process, and equal protection under the law**. Criminal-law mechanisms should never become tools for settling personal disputes, suppressing minority voices, or validating mob demands.

HRCBM calls for mandatory and independent digital-forensic verification in cases based on alleged online content; immediate protection of accused persons, their families, and surrounding minority communities from mob retaliation; prosecution of those who fabricate evidence or incite violence; and strict adherence to due process before arrest or prosecution. Authorities must also ensure that inflammatory rhetoric targeting minority religions is addressed with the same seriousness applied to allegations that minority citizens have offended majority religious sentiment.

The 17 documented incidents should therefore be understood not simply as isolated accusations, but as indicators of a wider human-rights problem in which **religious allegations can become instruments of criminalization, intimidation, collective punishment, and suppression of minority religious expression**.

Table 12. Blasphemy-Related Allegations, Religious-Insult Cases, and Related Religious Persecution Documented by HRCBM, Referenced by HRCBM SL Number

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
27	8 Jan 2026	Jhalokathi	Minority Hindu family	Alleged Fabrication of Blasphemy / Religious-	Pages of the Holy Qur'an were allegedly deliberately placed in front of a Hindu family's residence and the act recorded

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
				Desecration Accusation	on video, which was then reportedly circulated on social media in an apparent attempt to implicate the family and provoke communal tension. Law enforcement initiated a preliminary investigation into the suspicious circumstances.
137	4 Feb 2026	Jamalpur	Asim Kumar Dhar, student	Religious-Insult Allegation and Institutional Punishment	Jamalpur Textile Engineering College reportedly expelled Asim Kumar Dhar from the student hostel and temporarily suspended him from academic activities following an allegation of religious disrespect. The action placed his education, housing, and personal security at risk before the underlying allegation had been conclusively adjudicated.
311	18 Mar 2026	Chapainawabganj	Bipul Kumar	Detention Following Religious-Defamation Allegation	Hindu minority youth Bipul Kumar was reportedly detained in Shibganj Upazila following allegations of religious defamation. The accusation and detention generated tension and concern regarding his security and the treatment of minority individuals accused of religious offences.
334	27 Mar 2026	Thakurgaon	Bidhan Roy, 26	Social-Media Blasphemy Allegation and Arrest	Police arrested Bidhan Roy following allegations that he had posted offensive content concerning Prophet Muhammad on social media. Police reportedly intervened as tensions developed locally and stated that the matter was under investigation.
351	30 Mar 2026	Netrokona	Pritam Thakur, 24	Alleged Forced Religious Conversion	The family of Pritam Thakur, described as speech-impaired and intellectually disabled,

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
					alleged that he was lured, detained, and forcibly converted to Islam. The other side reportedly maintained that the conversion was voluntary. The case raises serious concerns regarding freedom of religion or belief, informed consent, and the particular vulnerability of persons with disabilities.
407	17 Apr 2026	Faridpur	Pradip Pal, 40	Online Religious-Defamation Case and Arrest	RAB arrested Pradip Pal in connection with a case alleging the use of fake Facebook accounts to distribute obscene, defamatory, and religiously offensive material, along with allegations of extortion. Mobile phones and a memory card were reportedly seized, and the case remained under investigation.
May-51	14 May 2026	Netrokona	Ayon Kanti Roy	Facebook Religious-Sentiment Allegation and Arrest	Ayon Kanti Roy was reportedly arrested in Barhatta following allegations that Facebook content attributed to him had hurt religious sentiments. Police stated that legal proceedings were underway.
May-71	19 May 2026	Satkhira	Gauranga Sarkar, 46, teacher	Blasphemy Allegation, Mob Assault, and Imprisonment	After allegations that he made derogatory remarks concerning Islam and Prophet Muhammad, teacher Gauranga Sarkar was reportedly assaulted by a mob, handed over to police, and subsequently sent to jail by court order. He reportedly maintained that his remarks had been misrepresented and

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
					that he had been deliberately framed.
May-78	20 May 2026	Mymensingh	Shawon Chandra Das, 22	Qur'an-Desecration Allegation, Arrest, and Attack on Family Home	Shawon Chandra Das was arrested and produced before court over allegations of desecrating the Holy Qur'an. Following the accusation, an angry mob reportedly attacked and vandalized his family home, demonstrating how a religious allegation can rapidly extend punishment from the accused individual to his family and property.
May-89	22 May 2026	Gopalganj	Mithu Mondal, school computer-lab operator	Religious-Insult Allegation and Loss of Employment	Mithu Mondal was accused of making derogatory remarks concerning Islam and Almighty Allah. Following protests, the school authorities reportedly permanently dismissed him from his position. At the time of HRCBM's documentation, no separate law-enforcement investigation or judicial determination had been reported.
June-171	6 Jun 2026	Mymensingh	Shanta Pal, 23, and his family	Blasphemy Allegation, Collective Intimidation, and Death Threats	A blasphemy accusation against Hindu expatriate Shanta Pal reportedly resulted in intimidation and death threats directed at his family in Bangladesh. Although Shanta Pal was reportedly abroad, his parents were allegedly publicly humiliated and pressured to ensure his return within a specified period, illustrating the extension of punishment and social pressure to relatives of an accused person.

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
June-215	14 Jun 2026	Khulna	Shyamal Gain	Social-Media Religious-Defamation Allegation	Shyamal Gain was accused of posting offensive comments concerning Prophet Muhammad on social media. The allegation generated local tension and demands for legal action. At the time of HRCBM's documentation, the authenticity and circumstances of the alleged content remained under investigation.
June-223	15 Jun 2026	Dinajpur	Palash Roy	Social-Media Blasphemy Allegation and Arrest	Police arrested Hindu youth Palash Roy in Parbatipur following allegations that a social-media post or comment attributed to him insulted Islam. Police stated that the matter remained under investigation.
June-237	19 Jun 2026	Feni	Srijon Das Pranto, 20	Facebook Blasphemy Allegation, Protest Mobilization, and Arrest	Police arrested Srijon Das Pranto following allegations that he made derogatory Facebook remarks concerning Prophet Muhammad and Fatima. Protesters identified as “Tauhidi Chhatra-Janata” reportedly organized demonstrations demanding maximum punishment. A case was filed and he was produced before court.
June-271	24 Jun 2026	Sunamganj	Dipto Ray / Prince Ray Dipto, 21	Cyber Case, Religious-Sentiment Allegation, Arrest, and Collective Retaliation	The minority youth was arrested following an allegation that Facebook content attributed to him had hurt religious sentiments and was subsequently sent to jail. HRCBM documentation concerning the wider incident also recorded reports of mob mobilization and attacks affecting his family's home,

SL	Date	District	Person / Community Targeted	Incident Pattern	Summary
					business, and a local temple, illustrating the danger of collective retaliation following an online religious accusation.
June-275	25 Jun 2026	Feni	Antor Pal, 26	Facebook Religious-Insult Allegation and Imprisonment	Antor Pal was arrested following allegations that a Facebook comment attributed to him offended Islam. The accusation reportedly generated local tension; police intervened and produced him before court, which ordered his detention in jail while proceedings continued.
June-298	28 Jun 2026	Jhenaidah	Prashanta Das, 45	Religious-Insult Allegation and Police Custody	Police took Prashanta Das into custody in Kaliganj following allegations that he made derogatory remarks about Islam during a discussion concerning different religions. Police stated that the matter was under investigation and that further legal action would depend upon the findings.

Figure 93. SL 27: Jhalokathi — Police Escort an Accused Individual Detained in Connection with an Alleged Conspiracy to Fabricate a Blasphemy Accusation Against a Hindu Family by Placing Pages of the Holy Qur'an Outside Their Home and Recording the Scene for Circulation on Social Media. The Family Was Cleared During the Preliminary Investigation, Exposing How Religious-Sentiment Allegations Can Be Deliberately Weaponized Against Minority Families.

Note: *The photograph and accompanying video footage show police escorting an individual detained in connection with a disturbing alleged conspiracy targeting a minority Hindu family in the* ***Old College Ferry Ghat area of Jhalokathi****. According to HRCBM documentation, pages of the Holy Qur'an were deliberately placed outside the Hindu family's residence and the scene was recorded on video, allegedly with the intention of circulating the footage on social media, falsely implicating the family in religious desecration, and generating communal tension. HRCBM reported that investigators examined video material, nearby CCTV footage, statements from local residents, and other evidence and concluded during the preliminary investigation that the Hindu family had no involvement in the incident. An accused individual identified in HRCBM's report as* ***Firoz Khan Tuku*** *was subsequently detained.*

The case is particularly significant because it provides a rare documented example in which an alleged attempt to manufacture a blasphemy-related accusation against a minority family was reportedly uncovered ***before the accusation could escalate into large-scale communal violence****. The targeted family was fortunate that suspicious circumstances were investigated promptly and that available video and CCTV evidence reportedly helped establish their lack of involvement. In many other cases documented by HRCBM, however, religious-insult or blasphemy-related accusations against minority individuals have been followed by arrest, detention, mob mobilization, attacks on homes and businesses, loss of employment, threats to family members, or prolonged insecurity before the underlying allegation has been independently verified.*

The incident exposes the extraordinary danger created when ***religious sentiment is deliberately weaponized as a tool of intimidation, coercion, revenge, or dispossession against vulnerable minority families****. In Bangladesh's highly sensitive communal environment, placing religious material near a minority home, circulating a manipulated video, creating a false social-media post, or attributing offensive content to a minority individual can rapidly transform an ordinary citizen into the target of public outrage. Once an accusation spreads, the presumption of innocence can effectively collapse under the pressure of social-media amplification, street mobilization, and demands for immediate punishment.*

For a minority family, the consequences can be catastrophic even before any court examines the evidence. A fabricated allegation can expose not only the accused individual but also ***parents, children, relatives, homes, businesses, temples, and surrounding minority neighborhoods*** *to retaliation. The resulting pressure can be used to silence families, force them into submission, settle personal or property disputes, extract concessions, or create conditions in which remaining in the locality becomes unsafe.*

The Jhalokathi case therefore demonstrates why allegations concerning religious insult must never be accepted solely on the basis of a circulating video, screenshot, social-media claim, or mob accusation. Authorities must immediately investigate ***who created the material, who placed or uploaded it, who controlled the relevant device or account, whether the evidence was manipulated or staged, and who benefited from implicating the accused minority individual or family****. The successful exposure of an alleged fabrication in this case illustrates precisely why evidence-based investigation must precede arrest, prosecution, or public attribution of guilt.*

HRCBM is deeply concerned that the existence and enforcement of religious-sentiment and blasphemy-related provisions can create an environment in which malicious actors believe that merely attaching a religious accusation to a minority person may be sufficient to mobilize public anger or invoke the machinery of criminal law. ***The danger lies not only in the law itself, but in the ease with which an accusation can be manufactured and the disproportionate consequences that can follow before its authenticity is tested.***

This Hindu family escaped the most devastating consequences because the alleged fabrication was reportedly detected and law-enforcement authorities intervened. ***Other minority families have not always been so fortunate.*** *HRCBM's broader documentation shows how similar allegations can lead to detention, mob violence, destruction of property, forced displacement, and lasting damage to the lives of individuals who may never have had a meaningful opportunity to establish their innocence before suffering punishment in the public sphere.*

The image of the accused individual being taken into police custody is therefore important beyond this single case. It illustrates what effective intervention can accomplish when authorities investigate the ***source of a blasphemy allegation rather than automatically***

treating the accused minority family as the offender. *It also underscores the urgent need for Bangladesh to ensure that those who deliberately fabricate religious accusations, manipulate evidence, incite communal violence, or weaponize religious sentiment against minorities are themselves investigated and held accountable*.

A society in which a fabricated accusation can place an entire minority family at risk of arrest, mob attack, or displacement is a society in which religious allegations have become instruments of power over vulnerable citizens. *The Jhalokathi case stands as both a warning and a lesson: prompt investigation and evidence can prevent tragedy, but without systemic safeguards, the next targeted family may not be protected in time*.

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তারিখঃ ২১ মাঘ ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ / ০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

বিষয়: ধর্মীয় অবমাননার অভিযোগে ছাত্র হোস্টেল থেকে বহিষ্কার করণ প্রসংগে।

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ের প্রেক্ষিতে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর এর ৩য় ব্যাচের শিক্ষার্থী (সেশন-২০২৩-২৪) অসীম কুমার ধর (রোল: 24110301009) ফেইসবুকে একটি পোস্টে হযরত মোহাম্মদ (সা:) নিয়ে আপত্তিকর মন্তব্য করে যা ধর্মীয় অবমাননার শামিল। বিষয়টি গুরুত্ব ও সংবেদনশীলতা বিবেচনায় নিয়ে এবং সাধারণ শিক্ষার্থীদের দাবির প্রেক্ষিতে হল কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী শিক্ষার্থী অসীম কুমার ধরকে ধর্মীয় অবমাননার অভিযোগে ০৪/০২/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে ছাত্র হোস্টেল থেকে বহিষ্কার করা হলো। এবং সেই সাথে তার এই উদ্ধত্যপূর্ণ আচরণের জন্য তাকে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের একাডেমিক কার্যক্রম থেকে সাময়িক অব্যাহতি দেয়া হল।

০৪.০২.২৬
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তারিখঃ ২১ মাঘ ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ / ০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

সদয় অবগতি ও প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুলিপি (জ্যেষ্ঠতার ক্রমানুসারে নয়):
০১। ভাইস চ্যান্সেলর, বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।
০২। ডীন, বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।
০৩। মহাপরিচালক, বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
০৩। পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
০৪। পরিচালক (শিক্ষা), বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
০৫। জেলা প্রশাসক, জামালপুর।
০৬। পুলিশ সুপার, জামালপুর।
০৭। উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
০৮। ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, মেলান্দহ থানা, জামালপুর।
০৯। বিভাগীয় প্রধান (সকল), জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১০। কোর্স কো-অডিনেটর (সকল), জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১১। রেজিস্টার শাখা, জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১২। হল সুপার (সকল), জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১৩। হিসাব শাখা, জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১৪। নোটিশ বোর্ড (সকল), জামালপুর টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ, মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।
১৫। অফিস কপি।

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Figure 94. SL 137: Jamalpur — Official Order Issued by Jamalpur Textile Engineering College on 4 February 2026 Expelling Hindu Student Asim Kumar Dhar from the Student Hostel and Temporarily Suspending Him from Academic Activities Following an Allegation of Religious Disrespect. The Document Shows That Institutional Sanctions Were Imposed in

Response to the Allegation and Demands from Other Students, Raising Serious Concerns Over Due Process, Presumption of Innocence, and the Educational Rights of Minority Students.

Note: *The image reproduces an official memorandum issued by the* ***Office of the Principal of Jamalpur Textile Engineering College, Melandah, Jamalpur****, dated* ***4 February 2026****, concerning Hindu student* ***Asim Kumar Dhar****, Roll No. 24110301009, of the 2023–24 session. The subject of the order expressly concerns his removal from the student hostel following an allegation of religious insult. The document states that Asim Kumar Dhar was accused of making an objectionable Facebook comment concerning Prophet Muhammad and that, considering the matter "serious and sensitive" and* ***in response to demands from general students****, the hall authorities decided to expel him from the hostel. The same order also temporarily removed him from the institution's academic activities for what the administration characterized as provocative conduct.*

The document is significant because it provides direct institutional evidence of how a ***blasphemy or religious-insult allegation can move rapidly from accusation to punishment within an educational institution****. The order itself records immediate and consequential sanctions affecting both Asim Kumar Dhar's residence and his education. It does not, on its face, describe the completion of an independent investigation, a disciplinary hearing at which the student was able to defend himself, forensic authentication establishing that the alleged Facebook content was created or posted by him, or a final judicial determination regarding the accusation.*

For HRCBM, this raises a fundamental question of due process. ***An allegation of religious disrespect—however sensitive—cannot itself become proof of guilt.*** *Educational institutions have a responsibility to maintain safety and public order, but they also have an equally important duty to protect students from arbitrary punishment, collective pressure, religious discrimination, and the destruction of educational opportunity before allegations have been fairly and independently examined.*

The reference in the official order to action being taken in response to the demands of other students is particularly concerning. Where institutional authorities impose severe sanctions under pressure generated by a religious accusation, there is a danger that ***majoritarian outrage or collective demands may effectively substitute for an impartial disciplinary process****. For a student from a religious minority, the imbalance can be profound: the accused may suddenly confront not only an allegation but also social hostility, loss of accommodation, exclusion from classes, fear for personal safety, and uncertainty over whether returning to the institution is possible.*

The consequences of such action can be devastating for a young person's future. Removal from a hostel can immediately deprive a student of safe accommodation, while suspension from academic activities can interrupt examinations, laboratory work, attendance, scholarships, and progression toward a degree. Even if an allegation is later

disproved or remains unsubstantiated, the student may already have suffered lasting academic, psychological, social, and reputational harm.

The case illustrates a broader danger documented by HRCBM: ***blasphemy-related accusations do not operate only through police stations and criminal courts. They can also trigger punishment through schools, colleges, universities, workplaces, and other institutions before the underlying facts have been independently established.*** *In such circumstances, minority citizens may effectively experience punishment first and investigation later.*

HRCBM is especially concerned that social-media allegations can be exceptionally vulnerable to fabrication, impersonation, hacking, manipulated screenshots, false attribution, or removal from their original context. Before an educational institution imposes sanctions capable of altering a student's life, authorities should establish the authenticity and authorship of the alleged material, provide the accused student with notice of the evidence, allow a meaningful opportunity to respond, and ensure that any disciplinary proceeding is independent of mob pressure or communal intimidation.

The official document shown here therefore represents more than an administrative notice concerning one student. It demonstrates how ***an accusation framed in the language of religious offence can penetrate institutional decision-making and place a minority student's education, housing, dignity, and personal security at immediate risk****. When institutions themselves respond to an unadjudicated religious allegation with exclusionary measures, they risk reinforcing the very environment of fear and intolerance that educational institutions should be working to prevent.*

HRCBM maintains that the State and public educational authorities must ensure that minority students receive the same presumption of innocence, procedural safeguards, and protection from discrimination as every other citizen. ***No student should lose access to education or accommodation merely because a religious accusation has generated public or peer pressure.*** *Any allegation of unlawful conduct should be examined through evidence, transparent procedure, and an opportunity for defence—not through collective demand, intimidation, or presumed guilt.*

The SL 137 case is therefore an important example of the ***institutional reach of blasphemy-related accusations in Bangladesh****. It shows how such allegations can extend beyond criminal prosecution and become a mechanism of exclusion within education itself. Unless strong safeguards are established, minority students may be placed in a position where a single accusation—whether true, disputed, manipulated, or fabricated—can jeopardize years of education and expose them to immediate social and physical insecurity.*

Figure 95. SL 311: Shibganj, Chapainawabganj — Hindu Minority Youth Bipul Kumar, Seen in Tears After Being Detained Following a Religious-Defamation Controversy That His Family Described as a Deliberate Conspiracy. Published reporting indicates that Bipul was not accused of making the original alleged blasphemous post himself, but was reportedly detained after being accused of supporting another individual at the center of the allegation, illustrating how rapidly religious accusations can engulf minority youths and their families.

Note: *The photograph shows* ***Bipul Kumar****, a 26-year-old Hindu minority resident of Shibganj, Chapainawabganj, visibly crying amid a religious-defamation controversy that led to his detention. According to HRCBM documentation, Bipul's family alleged that he had*

been deliberately framed following longstanding disputes with extremist individuals in the locality. The family maintained that the accusation against him was part of a planned conspiracy rather than a genuine case of religious insult.

Published reporting provides an additional and particularly important dimension to the case. According to Sanatan TV, the original allegation concerned another individual, ***Nayan Raj****, who was accused of making an offensive Facebook post concerning Prophet Muhammad. Bipul Kumar was reportedly detained by local people not for creating the original alleged religiously offensive content, but because he was accused of* ***supporting Nayan Raj****. He was subsequently handed over to police. Bipul's family stated that he had made no direct blasphemous or derogatory religious post and alleged that he had instead been intentionally drawn into the controversy over a separate social-media dispute.*

The image of Bipul Kumar in tears captures the deeply personal consequences of a system in which a religious accusation can rapidly move beyond the person originally accused and engulf others through association, rumor, social pressure, or retaliation. ***For a minority youth, the damage can begin long before any court determines guilt or innocence.*** *Detention, public accusation, fear of mob violence, reputational destruction, and the possibility of criminal prosecution can transform an individual's life within hours.*

The suffering does not stop with the accused. Bipul's wife reportedly stated that the couple has a ***three-year-old child*** *and that she and her mother-in-law were left in a helpless condition after his detention. Her appeal was simple: that the authorities conduct a proper investigation and ensure justice. The case therefore demonstrates how a single religious accusation can destabilize an entire family—removing a husband or father from the household, creating financial and emotional insecurity, exposing relatives to fear and social stigma, and leaving young children to experience the consequences of an allegation they cannot understand or control.*

For minority communities, such incidents can have a much wider chilling effect. When one Hindu youth is detained following an allegation that may arise from association with another accused person, members of the surrounding community may begin to fear that ***speaking, commenting, defending someone, or becoming involved in an unrelated personal dispute could expose them to accusations of religious offence****. The result can be self-censorship, social withdrawal, and a pervasive sense that minority citizens must constantly monitor their words and associations to avoid becoming the next target.*

The Bipul Kumar case also illustrates why blasphemy-related and religious-defamation allegations require exceptionally careful, evidence-based investigation. Authorities must distinguish clearly between the person alleged to have created or published the disputed material and individuals who may merely have been associated with, spoken about, or been accused of supporting that person. ***Criminal responsibility must be individual and based on evidence; it cannot be expanded through guilt by association, communal pressure, or public anger.***

HRCBM is deeply concerned that the social and legal consequences of blasphemy-related allegations can be so severe that even an unverified accusation may effectively become a form of punishment. A minority youth may be detained; his family may lose its principal source of support; his spouse and children may face insecurity; his reputation may be irreparably damaged; and his wider community may experience renewed fear—all before the authenticity, authorship, context, and intent of the alleged conduct have been independently established.

The tears visible in Bipul Kumar's face therefore represent more than individual distress. They symbolize the vulnerability of minority youths whose ***freedom, dignity, family life, livelihood, and future can be placed at risk by a single religious accusation****. Where such allegations are fabricated, manipulated, or expanded to implicate others through association, the consequences can destroy lives even when no offence is ultimately proven.*

For HRCBM, this case underscores an urgent human-rights principle: ***religious sensitivity cannot be permitted to replace due process, and public outrage cannot become a substitute for evidence****. The State must protect legitimate freedom of religion while simultaneously preventing blasphemy-related allegations from being misused to settle personal disputes, intimidate minority citizens, or bring vulnerable families into submission.*

Bipul Kumar's case is therefore not only about one detained youth. It illustrates how the weaponization of religious accusations can affect ***an accused person, a spouse, a young child, an elderly parent, and ultimately an entire minority community****. When fear of accusation becomes embedded in everyday life, the damage extends beyond individual prosecutions and begins to erode minorities' sense of equal citizenship, personal security, and freedom to live without constant fear of religiously charged retaliation.*

Figure 96. SL 334: Thakurgaon — Police Detain Hindu Minority Youth Bidhan Roy Following a Blasphemy-Related Allegation Based on Content Posted Through His Facebook Account, Which He Subsequently Stated in a Video Testimony to HRCBM Had Been Hacked. The Case Raises Grave Concerns Over the Arrest and Public Exposure of Minority Youths Before Digital-Forensic Verification of the Authorship and Control of Disputed Online Content.

Note: *The image shows the police operation surrounding the detention of* ***Bidhan Roy (26)****, a Hindu minority youth from Nekmarad Parkunda village in Ranisankail Upazila, Thakurgaon, after allegedly offensive content concerning Prophet Muhammad appeared through a Facebook account attributed to him. Published reporting stated that the post appeared on the morning of 27 March 2026 and that Bidhan Roy was detained by police later the same day after the allegation generated intense local anger. The report further stated that an agitated crowd searched for him at his home and was reportedly planning an attack before police intervened and brought the situation under control.*

The case acquires an entirely different human-rights significance in light of ***Bidhan Roy's subsequent video statement provided to HRCBM****, in which he stated that his social-media account had been* ***hacked*** *and that he was falsely implicated through content he did not create or publish. His account raises a critical question that must be answered before criminal responsibility is attributed to any person in a social-media-based religious-offence case:* ***Who actually controlled the account and posted the disputed material at the relevant time?***

The publicly available reporting reviewed by HRCBM records the allegation, the rapid escalation of local tensions, and Bidhan Roy's detention, but does not indicate that a completed digital-forensic examination had first established that he personally authored or uploaded the disputed post. Where the accused specifically alleges account hacking or unauthorized access, establishing authorship requires examination of available digital

evidence—including account-access history, devices, login records, IP and session information where obtainable, recovery activity, and other technical indicators capable of distinguishing the account owner from an unauthorized user.

*This distinction can mean the difference between **protecting an innocent victim of cyber intrusion and destroying the life of a person falsely accused of religious offence**. An individual's name appearing on a Facebook profile is not, by itself, technical proof that the individual personally created every piece of content published through that account. Accounts can be compromised, impersonated, accessed through stolen credentials, or otherwise misused. Where allegations carry the potential to trigger arrest, mob mobilization, threats to life, and communal violence, the obligation to establish digital authenticity becomes even more urgent.*

*The human consequences are immediate. Within hours of the disputed post appearing, Bidhan Roy was reportedly detained, while an angry crowd searched for him and considered attacking his home. For a minority youth facing such an accusation, there may be no meaningful interval between allegation and punishment: **his liberty can be taken, his name publicly stigmatized, his family placed in danger, his home threatened, and his future permanently altered before the central evidentiary question—whether he actually authored the content—is independently resolved.***

*HRCBM is deeply concerned about this recurring pattern. In an environment where accusations of insulting religion can generate immediate mass outrage, minority youths accused through social media can become vulnerable to both **State action and extra-judicial mob pressure simultaneously**. Police may face a legitimate responsibility to prevent imminent violence and protect an accused person from an angry crowd; however, protection from mob violence must not evolve into presumed criminal guilt. The State's responsibility is twofold: to protect the accused and surrounding community from violence, and to ensure that any criminal investigation is based on independently verified evidence.*

*The legal environment makes this safeguard particularly important. Bangladesh continues to retain **section 295A of the Penal Code**, which criminalizes deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of a class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs. Because the statutory language itself requires deliberate and malicious intention, reliable determination of authorship and intent is fundamental when the alleged conduct consists of digital content. An accusation arising from a compromised account cannot logically establish the required personal intention of the account holder without evidence linking that individual to the actual act.*

*Bidhan Roy's case therefore exposes a potentially devastating gap between **the speed of accusation and the speed of verification**. Social-media content can spread in minutes. Crowds can mobilize within hours. Police intervention and detention can follow almost immediately. Digital-forensic analysis, however, may come later—or may not be*

sufficiently pursued at all. By that stage, an accused minority youth may already have suffered consequences that cannot easily be reversed.

For minority families, the impact extends far beyond the individual detained. Parents may fear attacks on their homes; spouses and children may suddenly lose emotional or financial support; relatives may be forced to hide; neighbors may distance themselves out of fear; and an entire minority community may become anxious that another disputed Facebook post could trigger the next crisis. ***Even an eventual finding of innocence cannot automatically restore a destroyed reputation, lost employment, interrupted education, psychological trauma, or the sense of security that existed before the accusation.***

The photograph accompanying this case is therefore emblematic of a broader problem documented by HRCBM. It shows how quickly a minority youth can move from an ordinary private life into police custody after an allegation arising in the digital sphere. Bidhan Roy's assertion that his account was hacked makes the case particularly significant: ***where digital evidence is the foundation of an allegation, digital forensic verification should be central to the investigation—not an afterthought undertaken only after an individual's liberty and reputation have already been compromised.***

HRCBM calls for a rigorous evidentiary protocol in all religious-offence cases involving social media. Authorities should establish the authenticity and authorship of disputed content before attributing criminal responsibility; promptly investigate allegations of account compromise or impersonation; preserve relevant devices and platform evidence; protect accused persons and their families from mob retaliation; and take action against individuals who deliberately fabricate or manipulate digital material to implicate innocent persons.

The fundamental human-rights question presented by this casse is not whether genuinely unlawful conduct should be investigated. It is whether a minority youth should be allowed to lose his liberty, security, reputation, and future on the strength of a digital accusation before the State has established that the disputed digital act was actually his. *Where the accused says, "My account was hacked," the answer must come from evidence and forensic investigation—not from the anger of a crowd, the name displayed on a social-media profile, or the presumption that accusation itself establishes guilt.*

Figure 97. SL 407: Faridpur — News Photograph Reportedly Showing Pradip Pal in RAB Custody Following His Arrest on 17 April 2026 over Allegations That He Created Fake Social-Media Accounts Using Other Persons' Names and Photographs to Publish Obscene, Defamatory, and Religiously Offensive Content. The Case Is Particularly Significant Because One Allegedly Fabricated Facebook Account Used the Name and Photograph of Hindu Minority Man Shankar Kumar Pal to Circulate Qur'an-Desecration Content, Demonstrating How Digital Impersonation Can Falsely Place an Innocent Minority Individual at Risk of Blasphemy Accusations and Communal Retaliation.

***Note:** The image, published with the news report, reportedly shows **Pradip Pal (40)** after his arrest by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in the Araihazar area of Narayanganj on 17 April 2026. According to the RAB account cited in published reporting, he was accused of creating multiple fake social-media accounts using the names and photographs of other individuals and using those accounts to circulate obscene, defamatory, and religiously offensive material, as well as allegedly demanding money through extortion. RAB reported recovering three mobile phones and a memory card at the time of his arrest. The case was under investigation by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), Faridpur.*

*The case has particular significance for HRCBM's documentation of blasphemy-related incidents because the published report states that, on **14 April 2026**, a Facebook account using the **name and photograph of Shankar Kumar Pal (33)** of Alfadanga, Faridpur, was allegedly used to publish material described as desecrating the Qur'an. The resulting post reportedly generated alarm and tension among local residents. The allegation that another person's identity was used to publish such inflammatory religious material demonstrates a critical danger facing minority communities in the digital age: **an individual can potentially be transformed into an apparent blasphemy accused without having authored, uploaded, or even known about the disputed content.***

This case provides an important counterpoint to other blasphemy-related incidents documented by HRCBM. It demonstrates that fake accounts, stolen photographs, identity impersonation, and manipulated digital content are not merely hypothetical possibilities. According to the law-

enforcement allegations in this case, the identities of real people were allegedly appropriated to operate fraudulent social-media accounts and disseminate offensive material. In the context of Bangladesh, where an allegation of insulting Islam or desecrating the Qur'an can rapidly trigger public outrage, mob mobilization, arrest, attacks on homes, or threats against entire families, such digital impersonation can have potentially catastrophic consequences.

For an innocent minority individual whose name and photograph are attached to inflammatory religious content, the distinction between ***the real person and the person controlling the fake account may disappear in the public mind within minutes****. A screenshot can circulate widely before police establish who created the account. Crowds may mobilize before devices are examined. Families may be threatened before platform records are obtained. By the time digital evidence establishes that an account was fake or impersonated, the person falsely identified may already have suffered detention, public humiliation, destruction of property, loss of employment, displacement, or lasting damage to personal and community security.*

The reported use of ***Shankar Kumar Pal's identity*** *in connection with Qur'an-desecration content therefore illustrates precisely why HRCBM has repeatedly called for* ***digital-forensic verification before criminal responsibility is attributed in social-media-based blasphemy or religious-insult cases****. Authorities should determine who created the account, what devices accessed it, when and from where the disputed content was uploaded, whether photographs and identities were stolen, and whether the nominal account holder had any connection whatsoever to the material.*

The case also demonstrates how fabricated religious content can be used as a weapon for purposes that may have little to do with religion itself. The broader allegations reported against Pradip Pal included fake identities, defamatory content, and extortion. This raises a disturbing possibility applicable to blasphemy-related cases more generally: ***religious outrage can be deliberately manufactured or exploited as part of personal revenge, financial coercion, harassment, fraud, or other criminal schemes****, while the innocent person whose identity has been misused bears the potentially life-threatening consequences.*

For HRCBM, SL 407 therefore represents an especially important evidentiary example. Unlike cases in which account hacking or fabrication is alleged only by the accused or their family, this case involves a law-enforcement allegation that an individual actually created fake accounts using other people's identities and photographs. It demonstrates why authorities must never assume that the name or photograph displayed on a Facebook profile proves authorship of the content published through it.

The human-rights lesson is fundamental: in a country where a single alleged blasphemous post can endanger a person's liberty, home, livelihood, family, and even life, establishing digital authorship is not a technical formality—it is an essential safeguard against potentially irreversible injustice. *The State must investigate the creator of disputed content rather than simply punish the person whose name or photograph appears on the screen. Without rigorous digital forensics and immediate protection against mob retaliation, innocent minority citizens remain vulnerable to having their identities weaponized against them through a few clicks on a fabricated social-media account.*

Figure 98. SL May- 51: Barhatta, Netrokona — Ayan Kanti Roy (28), a Hindu Minority Youth and Factory Worker Arrested After a Facebook Post Triggered Allegations of Hurting Religious Sentiments, Rapid Online Outrage, Demonstrations, and Demands for His Arrest. Before His Detention, Roy stated in a video message that he had unknowingly copied and shared another person's post and apologized unconditionally. His case illustrates how a single disputed act on social media can rapidly place a minority youth's liberty, livelihood, family security, and future at risk under intense religious and public pressure.

Note: *The photograph shows* ***Ayan Kanti Roy (28)****, a Hindu minority youth from Panchruhi Sheikhpara village in Barhatta Upazila, Netrokona, who was working at a factory in Gazipur before being arrested over a Facebook post alleged to have hurt Muslim religious sentiments. According to published reporting, the disputed post spread rapidly through social media, generating widespread outrage and demands for his arrest. Tawhidi Janata and local Islamic scholars reportedly organized protest marches, demonstrators gathered in front of Barhatta Police Station demanding immediate legal action, and a leader of Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan submitted a written complaint against him. Police subsequently arrested Roy in Netrokona municipal area and announced that he would be produced before court.*

The case demonstrates the extraordinary speed with which a social-media controversy involving religion can transform the life of a minority youth. According to The Daily Star, as

tensions escalated, Ayan Kanti Roy released a video statement explaining that he had ***unknowingly copied and shared another person's post*** *and offered an unconditional apology. Despite that explanation, public mobilization intensified and demands for his immediate arrest continued.*

The sequence is deeply concerning from a human-rights perspective: ***a disputed social-media post circulated widely; outrage spread online; organized demonstrations followed; religious and political actors demanded arrest; and law enforcement carried out what police themselves described as a rapid operation to detain the accused amid fears of unrest.*** *The case therefore raises an important question about whether allegations involving religious sentiment are being addressed primarily through calm, evidence-based investigation or under the immediate pressure generated by public mobilization and the threat of disorder.*

For a minority youth, the consequences begin long before guilt or innocence is determined by a court. Arrest can immediately interrupt employment and income, separate an individual from his family, expose relatives to social hostility, and permanently attach his name and photograph to an accusation of religious offence. A young person's education, career, marriage prospects, social relationships, and ability to return safely to his community may all be affected by an accusation that spreads across social media within hours.

The impact can be equally devastating for the family. Parents may fear retaliation against their home; spouses and children may suddenly face financial insecurity; relatives may become afraid to speak publicly in defence of the accused; and the entire family may experience social isolation because of an allegation against one member. Even where an accused person apologizes, disputes authorship or intent, or is ultimately cleared, ***the stigma created by a widely circulated blasphemy-related allegation may survive far longer than the legal proceeding itself****.*

Ayan Kanti Roy's case also demonstrates the danger of allowing social-media amplification to determine the tempo of criminal justice. Digital communication frequently strips content of context. Material may be copied, forwarded, reposted, altered, misunderstood, or shared without full awareness of its origin. Determining criminal responsibility therefore requires examination not only of what appeared on an account, but also of ***authorship, intent, context, provenance, and the precise conduct of the person accused****. In Roy's case, his publicly reported statement that he had unknowingly copied and shared another person's post directly raises questions of intent that should be examined through an impartial legal process rather than presumed from the public reaction alone.*

HRCBM is particularly concerned about the broader pattern illustrated by this and other documented cases. Religious accusations involving minority youths can generate a combination of ***social-media outrage, organized religious mobilization, demands for immediate arrest, police intervention, and potential exposure of families to***

communal retaliation. *In such an environment, the distinction between protecting public order and yielding to majoritarian pressure can become dangerously blurred*.

The police have an obligation to prevent violence and protect communities when tensions rise. However, ***preventing a mob or public disturbance must never require sacrificing the presumption of innocence of the individual at the center of the controversy***. *Where there is a genuine threat to an accused minority person's safety, State authorities should protect that person and his family while independently investigating the allegation. Protective custody or rapid police intervention should not become a mechanism through which public anger effectively determines criminal culpability*.

The portrait of Ayan Kanti Roy therefore represents more than one young man accused over a Facebook post. It reflects the precarious position in which minority youths can find themselves when ***a few moments of online activity—or even a disputed act of copying and sharing content—can suddenly threaten an entire future***. *A factory worker can become a nationally discussed accused person overnight. A family can move from ordinary life to fear and uncertainty. A minority community can once again be reminded that a religious accusation against one of its members may carry consequences extending far beyond the individual*.

The case underscores an essential principle that must govern every blasphemy-related or religious-sentiment investigation: ***an accusation must be investigated as an accusation—not treated as a verdict***. *Public outrage cannot substitute for evidence; demonstrations cannot determine guilt; and the threat of unrest cannot justify abandoning due process. The State must ensure that minority citizens receive the same presumption of innocence, protection of liberty, and impartial investigation guaranteed to every citizen*.

Behind every blasphemy-related statistic is a human life capable of being permanently altered: a young person's freedom, a family's security, a livelihood, a reputation, and a future. *The case of Ayan Kanti Roy demonstrates why Bangladesh must ensure that religious-sentiment allegations are handled through evidence, proportionality, and due process rather than allowing the intensity of public pressure to determine how swiftly a minority citizen loses his liberty*.

Figure 99. SL 71: Satkhira — Composite image showing the detained minority school teacher at the center of a religion-related accusation. At left, he appears in a deeply humiliating posture, reportedly made to hold his ears while speaking; at right, he is shown after apprehension in the presence of police. According to HRCBM's documentation and family testimony, the case raises serious concerns that accusations of "hurting religious sentiments" may be used not only to criminalize but also to publicly degrade, professionally discredit, and economically destroy minority educators.

Note: *This composite image captures two dimensions of the ordeal faced by the minority teacher documented in this case. The larger image shows him in a posture of humiliation, appearing distressed while holding both ears — a visual that powerfully conveys the public shame and coercive pressure often associated with religion-related accusations in Bangladesh. The smaller image shows him after being taken into custody, illustrating how quickly such allegations can move from social accusation to State detention.*

The case is not an isolated dispute but as part of a wider pattern in which minority teachers and professionals may be targeted through allegations linked to religion in ways that devastate their livelihood, social standing, and security. For a teacher, such accusations can mean not only arrest or detention, but also loss of employment, public stigmatization, reputational ruin, and long-term hardship for the entire family. HRCBM's concerns are especially serious where relatives allege that the underlying objective was to remove the teacher from his position and open the way for others to take over his job.

The image is therefore significant not merely because it records one man's detention, but because it reflects a broader human-rights concern: ***when religion-related accusations are used against minority individuals, the punishment often begins long before any fair judicial determination****. Public humiliation, communal hostility, fear, and economic destruction can become immediate realities. In such cases, a minority teacher's career,*

dignity, and family stability may all be shattered by allegations that require the strictest scrutiny, due process, and protection from retaliatory or discriminatory misuse.

Figure 100. SL May-78: Gouripur, Mymensingh — College Student Shawon Chandra Das Shown Handcuffed in Police Custody After an Image Allegedly Desecrating the Qur'an Circulated from an Imo Account Bearing His Name. The Accusation Triggered Immediate Mob Mobilization, an Attack and Vandalism at His Family Home, Demands for His Arrest,

and His Subsequent Detention and Prosecution—illustrating how a disputed digital allegation can rapidly devastate a minority youth and punish an entire family before the underlying digital evidence is independently established.

Note: *The photograph shows* ***Shawon Chandra Das****, a Hindu minority college student from Mazhipara in Gouripur, Mymensingh,* ***handcuffed and being escorted in police custody*** *following an allegation of Qur'an desecration linked to an image that circulated through social media. Published reports state that the disputed image appeared from an* ***Imo account bearing Shawon Chandra Das's name****. The allegation spread rapidly, provoking intense local anger and setting in motion a chain of events that affected not only Shawon but his entire family.*

Within hours of the allegation spreading, an agitated crowd reportedly demonstrated in Gouripur and ***attacked and vandalized Shawon's family home in the Mazhipara area****. Groups also gathered demanding his punishment and immediate arrest. Local officials and police reportedly sought to control the escalating situation by assuring religious leaders and protesters that the accused would be arrested. Shawon was subsequently located in the Tejgaon area of Dhaka through the use of technology, detained, transferred to Mymensingh, formally arrested in a case filed at Gouripur Police Station, and sent to court.*

The case demonstrates one of the most dangerous consequences of blasphemy-related accusations against minority citizens: ***the punishment can begin before the truth has been established****. Before a court determined responsibility, a young minority student was already in handcuffs, his family home had reportedly been attacked, his relatives had been exposed to fear and insecurity, and public demonstrations were demanding punishment.*

The central evidentiary issue in a digitally generated allegation should be straightforward but crucial: ***who actually created and uploaded the disputed content?*** *The fact that material circulates from an account bearing an individual's name does not, by itself, establish that the named person personally created, uploaded, or controlled that material at the relevant time. Digital accounts may be compromised, impersonated, accessed by others, or falsely created in another person's identity. Where the consequences of an accusation can include imprisonment and mob violence, digital authorship and control must be established through competent investigation before assumptions of guilt become irreversible.*

SL 78 is particularly disturbing because the consequences extended immediately to the accused youth's family. ***The attack on Shawon's home illustrates a form of collective retaliation in which relatives and family property become targets for an accusation made against one individual.*** *Whatever the ultimate findings of a lawful investigation, a family should never be subjected to mob punishment for an alleged act attributed to one of its members. Criminal responsibility is individual; it cannot lawfully be transferred to parents, siblings, relatives, homes, businesses, or an entire minority neighborhood.*

For a young college student, the long-term consequences can be devastating. An arrest associated publicly with an accusation of Qur'an desecration can jeopardize ***education,***

employment, personal safety, social relationships, reputation, and the ability to return safely to one's own community*. Even where allegations are later disproved, the stigma created by widely circulated religious accusations may remain. For the family, destruction or vandalism of the home, fear of renewed attack, legal expenses, loss of income, and psychological trauma can transform a single accusation into a prolonged humanitarian crisis.*

The image of Shawon Chandra Das standing barefoot and handcuffed between police officers therefore represents more than an arrest. It illustrates the extraordinary imbalance between ***the speed of religious accusation and mob mobilization on one side, and the slower process of establishing digital evidence and legal truth on the other****. A social-media image can spread within minutes; crowds can assemble within hours; a minority home can be attacked the same night; and an accused youth can be detained before society has paused to ask whether the digital material has been forensically attributed to him.*

This case also raises serious concerns about the role of State institutions when communal tension escalates. Police have a legitimate duty to prevent violence and protect public order. But when an accused person or his family faces imminent mob attack, the State's responsibility is not merely to satisfy demands for arrest. ***It is equally obligated to protect the accused, protect the family and their property, investigate the origin of the disputed digital material impartially, and ensure that public pressure does not replace due process.***

The pattern documented across multiple blasphemy-related cases shows why such safeguards are urgently needed. In one case, a Hindu family was allegedly framed by placing Qur'an pages outside its home; in another, law enforcement alleged that fake Facebook identities had been used to circulate inflammatory religious content; another accused youth stated that his account had been hacked. Against this documented background, ***every digital blasphemy allegation requires rigorous scrutiny of authorship, account control, device access, and the provenance of the disputed material before irreversible harm is inflicted upon an accused minority citizen****.*

SL 78 therefore captures the devastating reach of a blasphemy-related allegation: ***a young man's liberty is taken, a student's future is placed in jeopardy, a family's home is attacked, relatives are terrorized, and an entire minority community is reminded of how quickly an online accusation can become a real-world threat to life and security****.*

The fundamental principle is simple: ***an allegation must trigger an investigation—not collective punishment****. A name attached to an online account cannot replace digital forensic evidence. Public anger cannot replace judicial determination. And under no circumstances should the family of an accused minority youth be forced to pay the price for an allegation that has not yet been proven in a court of law.*

6.0 Legal Assessment

Bangladesh's domestic legal framework imposes clear obligations on the state to protect life, liberty, equality before law, religious freedom, property rights, and personal security. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equality before law and equal protection of law under Article 27, prohibits discrimination on grounds including religion and sex under Article 28, and protects life and personal liberty under Article 32. These constitutional guarantees are directly implicated where minority individuals, families, women and girls, religious institutions, and Indigenous communities face violence, intimidation, land grabbing, sexual violence, abduction, or denial of effective protection.

Under Bangladesh's Code of Criminal Procedure, information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence must be recorded by the officer-in-charge of a police station, and cognizable offences require prompt law-enforcement action. The incidents documented in this report raise serious concerns regarding whether minority victims consistently receive timely registration of complaints, effective investigation, protection from retaliation, and equal access to justice.

The evidence documented in this report suggests recurring protection failures across multiple categories of violations, including killings and suspicious deaths, missing-person cases, sexual violence, abduction, temple vandalism, land grabbing, arson, robbery, extortion, political intimidation, and attacks on Indigenous communities. While the available data do not uniformly contain complete FIR, arrest, charge-sheet, or prosecution-status information for every case, the qualitative patterns reveal repeated concerns regarding delayed response, weak follow-up, intimidation of victims or families, and lack of visible accountability.

These failures are not merely administrative. Where minority communities repeatedly report violence, threats, land dispossession, sexual abuse, religious attacks, and intimidation without timely and effective remedy, the result is a broader protection deficit. Such a deficit undermines public confidence in the rule of law and contributes to a climate in which perpetrators may perceive that crimes against minority communities can be committed with limited consequence.

6.1 International Human-Rights Framework

Bangladesh is bound by multiple international human-rights obligations relevant to the incidents documented in this report, including obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. These

frameworks require states to protect life and security, ensure equality before law, prevent discrimination, protect women and children from violence, and provide effective remedies for rights violations.

The documented incidents raise concerns across several core human-rights domains:

- the right to life and personal security;
- freedom from torture, cruel treatment, and gender-based violence;
- freedom of religion or belief;
- equality before law and non-discrimination;
- protection of children from abduction, coercion, exploitation, and forced or child marriage;
- protection of women and girls from sexual violence and intimidation;
- property and livelihood security;
- protection of Indigenous and ethnic minority communities;
- and the right to an effective remedy.

The recurring nature of these violations indicates failures across the state's due-diligence responsibilities: prevention, protection, investigation, prosecution, and remedy. Where authorities fail to prevent foreseeable harm, respond promptly to credible threats, investigate serious violations, protect victims and witnesses, or prosecute perpetrators, the state risks breaching both domestic and international obligations.

6.2 Atrocity Risk, Rome Statute Jurisdiction, and Potential Crimes Against Humanity or Genocide

The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) does not purport through this report to make a final judicial determination that genocide, crimes against humanity, or any other international crime has been committed. Such determinations require competent investigation, application of the relevant legal elements to admissible evidence, and assessment of individual criminal responsibility.

HRCBM nevertheless considers that the **scale, geographic spread, recurrence, cumulative character, and historical continuity of serious violations affecting religious and ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh warrant examination under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**, particularly the provisions concerning **crimes against humanity under Article 7 and genocide under Article 6**.

This assessment carries particular significance because **Bangladesh is a State Party to the Rome Statute**. Bangladesh signed the Statute on 16 September 1999 and deposited its instrument of ratification on **23 March 2010**. Under the Statute's entry-into-force provisions, the Rome Statute became applicable to Bangladesh from **1 June 2010**. Consequently, subject to the Court's jurisdictional and admissibility requirements, Rome Statute crimes committed on the territory of Bangladesh after that date may fall within the territorial jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

6.2.1 Jurisdictional Relevance of Bangladesh's Status as a State Party

Article 5 of the Rome Statute places genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. In the context of the violations examined in this report, HRCBM considers **Articles 6 and 7** to be of particular relevance.

Bangladesh's status as a State Party is legally significant. Under **Article 12**, the Court may exercise jurisdiction, subject to the requirements of the Statute, where relevant crimes are committed on the territory of a State Party or by a national of a State Party. Under **Article 13**, the Court's jurisdiction may be triggered through a referral by a State Party, a referral by the United Nations Security Council, or an investigation initiated by the Prosecutor in accordance with Article 15 and the applicable statutory requirements.

Accordingly, allegations of Rome Statute crimes committed on the territory of Bangladesh after the Statute became applicable to Bangladesh are not merely matters of abstract international concern. They may, where the applicable legal thresholds are satisfied, fall within a jurisdictional framework to which Bangladesh itself has voluntarily subjected itself by becoming a State Party.

The historical violations discussed elsewhere in this report that predate the Court's temporal jurisdiction over Bangladesh are not presented as crimes independently prosecutable by the ICC merely because they form part of HRCBM's historical analysis. Their significance is instead contextual. Earlier patterns may assist competent investigators in understanding the historical vulnerability of affected communities, recurring methods of persecution and dispossession, the foreseeability of violence, the development of discriminatory practices, and—where legally permissible—the context relevant to assessing knowledge, policy, pattern, or intent in relation to conduct occurring within the Court's temporal jurisdiction.

6.2.2 Potential Relevance of Article 7 — Crimes Against Humanity

Under Article 7 of the Rome Statute, specified acts may constitute crimes against humanity when committed as part of a **widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population**, with knowledge of the attack. The Rome Statute and the

ICC's Elements of Crimes establish additional contextual, material, and mental elements that must be proved before individual criminal responsibility can be established.

The January–June 2026 incident registry, considered together with HRCBM's broader documentation, contains allegations and documented patterns potentially relevant to several acts enumerated under Article 7. These include killings; severe physical violence; rape and other forms of sexual violence; alleged unlawful deprivation of liberty; abductions and cases requiring examination for possible disappearance; severe religious and identity-based persecution; destruction and dispossession of homes, land, businesses, and livelihood assets; and circumstances in which violence or coercive pressure may contribute to displacement from ancestral communities.

The relevance of **Article 7(1)(a), concerning murder**, arises where intentional killings can be shown to form part of the broader contextual requirements of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population.

The documented cases of rape and other severe sexual violence may require examination under **Article 7(1)(g)** where the requisite contextual elements are established. Sexual violence against minority women and girls may assume additional significance where evidence demonstrates that victims were selected because of their religious or ethnic identity or that such violence formed part of a broader course of discriminatory conduct.

Where individuals are imprisoned or otherwise severely deprived of physical liberty contrary to fundamental rules of international law, **Article 7(1)(e)** may also become relevant. HRCBM's concerns regarding allegedly fabricated or abusive criminal cases, blasphemy-related detention, and proceedings affecting minority advocates do not automatically establish this crime. They nevertheless warrant scrutiny where evidence indicates severe unlawful deprivation of liberty within the broader contextual requirements of Article 7.

Cases involving missing persons or abductions must similarly be assessed with precision. A person being missing does not by itself constitute enforced disappearance under the Rome Statute. **Article 7(1)(i)** becomes relevant only where its specific elements are established, including the requisite involvement or authorization, support, or acquiescence of a State or political organization and the other statutory requirements.

HRCBM considers **Article 7(1)(h), concerning persecution**, particularly significant to the patterns examined in this report. Under the Rome Statute, persecution involves the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights contrary to international law by reason of the identity of a group or collectivity, together with the other required connections specified by Article 7.

The evidence documented by HRCBM raises serious questions regarding whether at least some recurring acts—including violence associated with religious identity, destruction of

sacred institutions, blasphemy-related collective retaliation, severe dispossession, discriminatory intimidation, attacks on Indigenous communities, and coercive pressure affecting minority families—should be investigated not merely as unrelated domestic crimes but as potentially interconnected acts of persecution directed against identifiable religious or ethnic groups.

The documented patterns of land seizure, destruction of homes, threats compelling families to leave, economic destruction, and violence associated with displacement also require careful examination in light of **Article 7(1)(d), concerning deportation or forcible transfer of population**. Not every land dispute, migration, or departure constitutes forcible transfer. The relevant inquiry is whether persons were displaced from areas in which they were lawfully present by expulsion or other coercive acts without grounds permitted under international law and whether the other contextual elements of crimes against humanity are established.

HRCBM's evidence does not establish that all 824 incidents form part of a single legally proven attack, nor does HRCBM contend that every crime against a minority victim was motivated by religious or ethnic identity. Nevertheless, the documentation raises a legitimate and urgent question: **whether a sufficient number of qualifying acts, when examined cumulatively rather than in isolation, may form part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against sections of Bangladesh's religious or ethnic minority civilian population.**

That question requires independent investigation.

6.2.3 Potential Relevance of Article 6 — Genocide

Article 6 of the Rome Statute defines genocide through specified prohibited acts committed with the **intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such**. The prohibited acts include killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm; deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. The requirement of specific intent distinguishes genocide from other grave international crimes.

Religious and ethnic communities examined in this report may constitute protected groups within the meaning of Article 6. However, the existence of serious violence, persecution, discrimination, demographic decline, forced migration, or displacement does **not by itself establish genocide**. A legal finding of genocide requires evidence of the specific intent to physically or biologically destroy the protected group, in whole or in substantial part.

HRCBM does not claim that the January–June 2026 registry, standing alone, conclusively establishes such genocidal intent.

Nevertheless, HRCBM considers that the **historical and contemporary convergence of recurring killings, serious bodily and psychological harm, sexual violence, destruction of religious institutions, sustained land dispossession, coercive displacement pressure, attacks affecting community continuity, and long-term demographic contraction** raises questions that merit independent investigation rather than categorical dismissal.

The proper legal inquiry is whether particular perpetrators, networks, organizations, authorities, or other actors have acted merely with discriminatory, exclusionary, economic, political, or displacement-related objectives—or whether evidence demonstrates, in particular situations, the substantially higher **specific intent to destroy a protected religious or ethnic group, in whole or in part, as such**.

Evidence relevant to that inquiry may include patterns of victim selection; the nature and repetition of prohibited acts; statements or communications revealing intent; the deliberate creation of destructive conditions of life; coordinated conduct; the scale and geographic concentration of violence; the identity of targeted communities; and other direct or circumstantial evidence from which the required specific intent might lawfully be inferred.

The distinction between **persecution, displacement, crimes against humanity, and genocide** must therefore remain legally clear. Severe persecution or forcible displacement does not automatically amount to genocide. At the same time, the absence of an already established judicial finding of genocidal intent should not prevent competent authorities from investigating whether such intent exists where recurring prohibited acts and broader contextual evidence create credible grounds for inquiry.

6.2.4 Historical Continuity and Its Legal Significance

The contemporary incidents documented in this report arise against an extraordinary historical background. HRCBM's analysis identifies recurring episodes of communal violence, killings, sexual violence, attacks on religious institutions, dispossession, displacement pressure, and institutional failure affecting minority communities across successive political eras.

Because the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over Bangladesh is temporally limited, historical violations preceding the applicability of the Rome Statute to Bangladesh cannot simply be aggregated with later conduct for purposes of establishing ICC jurisdiction over those earlier acts.

However, temporal jurisdiction and evidentiary relevance are distinct questions.

Where legally admissible and relevant, historical patterns may assist an investigation into contemporary conduct by providing context concerning the accumulated vulnerability of

targeted communities, recurring methods of abuse, institutional knowledge of foreseeable risk, historical patterns of impunity, and the background against which post-2010 conduct occurred.

HRCBM therefore considers the historical continuity documented in this report significant not because it converts eight decades of history into a single ICC case, but because **the serious violations documented today cannot necessarily be understood in isolation from recurring patterns affecting many of the same religious and ethnic communities across generations**.

This historical persistence also has profound significance for atrocity prevention. Where recurrent forms of violence, dispossession, displacement, and persecution continue over generations despite repeated political transitions, domestic litigation, international advocacy, and public documentation, the international community should not wait for further irreversible harm before assessing whether the legal thresholds of atrocity crimes are approaching or have already been crossed.

6.2.5 Individual Criminal Responsibility, Official Capacity, and Command Responsibility

The Rome Statute establishes **individual criminal responsibility**, rather than criminal liability of a State as such. Under **Article 25**, responsibility may arise for individuals who commit crimes within the Court's jurisdiction or who participate in their commission through forms of responsibility recognized by the Statute.

Accordingly, any ICC investigation concerning Bangladesh would ultimately require evidence linking particular individuals to specific Rome Statute crimes and to the applicable modes of responsibility.

Article 27 further provides that official capacity does not, in itself, exempt a person from criminal responsibility under the Rome Statute. Consequently, where the statutory requirements are otherwise established, political or governmental position does not by itself bar individual responsibility.

Article 28 may become relevant to military commanders or other superiors where the specific requirements for command or superior responsibility are established. HRCBM does not presume such responsibility from the existence of security-force operations or institutional hierarchy alone. Any determination would require evidence addressing effective command or authority and control, knowledge or the applicable knowledge standard, and failure to take necessary and reasonable measures as required by the Statute.

These provisions are relevant to HRCBM's central accountability concern: international criminal law ultimately requires investigation not merely of what happened, but of **who planned, ordered, committed, facilitated, contributed to, knowingly enabled, or failed**

to prevent or repress qualifying crimes under the legally applicable modes of responsibility.

6.2.6 Complementarity, Domestic Accountability Deficit, and the Relevance of ICC Jurisdiction

The Rome Statute establishes the International Criminal Court as **complementary to national criminal jurisdictions**. Bangladesh therefore retains the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, and other crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. The ICC is not a substitute for Bangladesh's Supreme Court or ordinary criminal-justice institutions, nor is it an appellate body empowered to review every instance of domestic judicial delay or failure. Rather, under the complementarity framework reflected in **Article 1 and Article 17 of the Rome Statute**, the Court's role becomes relevant where potential cases within its jurisdiction are not being genuinely investigated or prosecuted at the national level, subject to the Statute's other jurisdictional and admissibility requirements.

This principle has particular relevance to the situation documented by HRCBM. Since 2006, HRCBM has pursued public-interest litigation and other legal interventions concerning recurring communal violence, minority protection, land and property rights, institutional failures, violence affecting minority women and girls, and other serious concerns involving religious and ethnic minority communities. HRCBM's documented experience is that a number of these proceedings have faced prolonged delay, have not received substantive or timely judicial consideration, or have remained without remedies proportionate to the urgency of the underlying allegations. HRCBM further sought judicial intervention in 2025 concerning hundreds of criminal cases that it alleges were falsely, improperly, or abusively brought against members of minority communities, and reports that the relevant writ proceedings have yet to receive substantive judicial determination.

The significance of this record is not that prolonged Supreme Court proceedings automatically establish ICC admissibility. **Constitutional and public-interest litigation seeking structural protection is not necessarily equivalent to a domestic criminal investigation or prosecution of the same persons and substantially the same conduct that might form a potential case before the ICC.** Accordingly, unresolved HRCBM litigation, standing alone, cannot establish that Bangladesh is "unwilling or unable" genuinely to investigate or prosecute within the meaning of Article 17.

Nevertheless, the prolonged absence of effective judicial resolution is highly relevant to the broader **accountability environment** in which possible Rome Statute crimes must be assessed. Where serious and recurring violations have been brought before domestic institutions over many years, where structural litigation remains unresolved, where court-ordered protections are allegedly not always effectively enforced, and where comparable patterns of violence, persecution, dispossession, and impunity continue to recur,

legitimate questions arise regarding the capacity of domestic mechanisms to provide timely prevention, effective remedy, and meaningful accountability.

For purposes of complementarity, however, the decisive inquiry must go further. The central question is whether Bangladesh's competent investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial authorities are **genuinely investigating and, where warranted by evidence, prosecuting the individuals who may bear responsibility for conduct potentially amounting to crimes against humanity or genocide**.

Where no relevant national criminal investigations or prosecutions exist concerning potential Rome Statute cases, the issue may be one of **domestic inactivity**. Where proceedings do exist, Article 17 requires examination of their genuineness. The relevant legal inquiry may include whether proceedings are being conducted independently and impartially, whether unjustified delay is inconsistent with an intention to bring the person concerned to justice, or whether proceedings have been undertaken for the purpose of shielding a person from criminal responsibility. The much narrower statutory concept of "inability" must also be distinguished from ordinary judicial delay or institutional weakness and assessed according to the specific requirements of Article 17.

HRCBM therefore does not contend that every failure to prosecute an individual incident, every delayed writ petition, or every unresolved complaint makes a matter admissible before the ICC. Nor does HRCBM contend that the ICC should assume jurisdiction over each of the 824 incidents documented in this report as a separate case.

The more fundamental question is whether **behind and across these individual incidents there may exist conduct forming part of potential crimes against humanity or genocide; whether identifiable individuals may bear responsibility for organizing, directing, facilitating, contributing to, or otherwise participating in such crimes under applicable provisions of the Rome Statute; and whether Bangladesh is genuinely investigating and prosecuting those potential cases and responsible individuals**.

This distinction is particularly important in evaluating the relationship between HRCBM's longstanding domestic litigation and its subsequent recourse to the **Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**. HRCBM's resort to international mechanisms did not arise in the absence of attempts to seek domestic remedies. Rather, according to HRCBM's documentation, it followed years of litigation, legal advocacy, requests for institutional intervention, and continued documentation of serious violations affecting minority communities across successive political administrations.

HRCBM has also submitted information and documentation to the Office of the Prosecutor concerning alleged serious crimes affecting Bangladesh's minority communities. Under the Rome Statute framework, information submitted by a non-governmental organization does not itself open an ICC investigation or establish criminal responsibility. The Prosecutor independently evaluates available information and, when determining whether

to proceed, considers jurisdiction, admissibility, and the interests of justice under the applicable provisions of the Statute.

The relevance of complementarity to HRCBM's request for prosecutorial examination therefore lies not simply in the fact that domestic litigation has been delayed. It lies in the need to determine whether Bangladesh's national criminal-justice system is **genuinely addressing the possible international-crime dimension of the conduct documented**—including whether any national investigations are examining alleged interconnected patterns of persecution, the individuals who may bear the greatest responsibility, and substantially the same conduct that could form potential cases before the ICC.

Bangladesh's status as a State Party gives this question additional legal significance. Bangladesh ratified the Rome Statute on **23 March 2010**, thereby accepting the treaty framework under which qualifying crimes committed within the Court's temporal and territorial jurisdiction may be subject to ICC scrutiny, provided that the statutory requirements are met.

Accordingly, HRCBM considers that its experience of prolonged domestic litigation since 2006, continuing allegations of serious violations, recurring concerns regarding impunity, and the apparent absence of a demonstrated national criminal process addressing whether broader patterns may constitute crimes under Articles 6 or 7 should form part of the factual context considered by the Office of the Prosecutor.

This does not predetermine admissibility. It does, however, raise an important complementarity question that cannot be answered merely by pointing to the formal availability of courts or the existence of ordinary criminal proceedings:

Are the potential Rome Statute crimes themselves, and the individuals who may bear the greatest responsibility for them, being genuinely investigated and prosecuted in Bangladesh?

Where the answer is no, the existence of domestic courts in the abstract should not prevent international examination. Where relevant national proceedings exist, their genuineness must be assessed in accordance with Article 17. **Complementarity is intended to preserve genuine national accountability; it should not become a basis for indefinite international inaction where the conduct potentially falling within the Court's jurisdiction remains substantively uninvestigated or unprosecuted.**

The prolonged experience of HRCBM before domestic institutions is therefore legally relevant not because the Supreme Court of Bangladesh is itself "complementary to the ICC," but because **the ICC is complementary to Bangladesh's national criminal jurisdiction**. HRCBM's domestic litigation history provides important contextual evidence of the efforts undertaken to obtain national protection and accountability, while the ultimate Article 17 inquiry requires examination of whether Bangladesh is genuinely

addressing the potential international crimes and responsible individuals identified through the evidence.

Read together with the legal assessment in the preceding subsections, this accountability record strengthens HRCBM's position that the Office of the Prosecutor should independently examine the situation, the existence or absence of relevant national proceedings, and the applicability of the Rome Statute's jurisdictional and admissibility requirements. The resulting determination must be made through the independent legal processes of the Court; however, **nearly two decades of unresolved structural litigation combined with continuing allegations of serious and recurring violations provide substantial reason to ask whether domestic accountability mechanisms are, in practice, adequately addressing conduct that may engage the international criminal-law framework.**

6.2.7 HRCBM's Legal Assessment, Complementarity, and Call for ICC Examination

HRCBM's call for international criminal-law examination arises **after sustained resort to domestic judicial, legal, and institutional mechanisms**, not as a substitute for them. Since 2006, HRCBM has pursued public-interest litigation, writ proceedings, legal interventions, and other remedies concerning recurring communal violence, minority protection, land and property dispossession, violence against women and girls, allegedly abusive criminal proceedings, and broader failures of institutional protection affecting religious and ethnic minority communities. According to HRCBM's records, a number of these proceedings have remained pending for prolonged periods, have not received substantive or timely judicial determination, or have failed to produce effective structural remedies while similar violations have continued to recur.

This domestic record must be understood in light of the principle of **complementarity**, which is fundamental to the Rome Statute system. The International Criminal Court does not replace Bangladesh's national courts. Rather, the ICC is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions, which retain the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes within the Court's jurisdiction. Under Article 17 of the Rome Statute, admissibility depends in part on whether relevant national investigations or prosecutions are genuinely being undertaken. ICC practice further indicates that complementarity is assessed in relation to the relevant potential cases and substantially the same conduct and persons, rather than through a generalized assessment of the national judicial system as a whole.

HRCBM therefore does not contend that the prolonged pendency of its litigation before the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, standing alone, establishes that Bangladesh is "unwilling or unable" within the meaning of Article 17. Public-interest and constitutional proceedings seeking structural protection are not necessarily equivalent to criminal investigations and prosecutions directed at individuals potentially responsible for crimes against humanity or genocide.

Nevertheless, HRCBM considers its nearly two decades of domestic litigation highly relevant to the broader accountability context. Where repeated judicial interventions have sought protection against serious and recurring violations, yet substantive resolution remains elusive and comparable patterns of violence, persecution, dispossession, and impunity continue, legitimate questions arise as to whether domestic institutions are providing effective preventive and remedial protection.

For purposes of complementarity, however, the more legally decisive question is narrower and more consequential:

Are Bangladesh's competent investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial authorities genuinely investigating and, where supported by evidence, prosecuting the individuals who may bear responsibility for conduct potentially constituting crimes against humanity or genocide under the Rome Statute?

If relevant national criminal proceedings addressing potential Rome Statute cases and those most responsible for them are absent, the issue may involve **domestic inactivity**. Where relevant proceedings do exist, further examination may be required to determine whether they are genuine within the meaning of Article 17, including whether they are conducted independently and impartially, whether unjustified delay is inconsistent with an intent to bring responsible persons to justice, or whether proceedings have been undertaken in a manner that shields individuals from criminal responsibility.

HRCBM does not assert that shortcomings in ordinary criminal investigations, delayed Supreme Court writ proceedings, or failures to resolve every one of the 824 incidents automatically make a matter admissible before the ICC. The International Criminal Court is not an appellate court for Bangladesh, nor is it intended to adjudicate every unresolved domestic human-rights violation.

Rather, the relevant question is whether the documented incidents, viewed cumulatively and in their broader context, reveal potential crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court; whether identifiable individuals may bear criminal responsibility for those crimes; and whether genuine domestic investigations and prosecutions are addressing substantially the same persons and conduct.

HRCBM's legal assessment is that the evidence assembled in this report provides a serious basis for examining whether **at least some of the documented conduct may form part of a broader pattern potentially engaging Article 7 of the Rome Statute**, particularly the crime against humanity of persecution and, where the applicable elements are established, murder, sexual violence, forcible transfer, severe deprivation of liberty, or other qualifying acts.

The combination of recurring killings and serious physical violence; sexual and gender-based violence; destruction and desecration of religious institutions; religious and identity-

based persecution; land and economic dispossession; coercive displacement pressures; collective retaliation associated with blasphemy-related allegations; violence affecting Indigenous and ethnic minority communities; and recurring concerns regarding impunity warrants examination not only incident by incident, but also for possible connections among perpetrators, methods, objectives, enabling structures, and patterns of conduct.

HRCBM further considers that the extraordinary historical persistence of grave violations affecting identifiable religious and ethnic minority communities, together with continuing contemporary violence, dispossession, displacement pressure, and long-term demographic contraction, warrants investigation into whether, in particular situations, evidence exists of the **specific intent required for genocide under Article 6**.

HRCBM does not declare that genocidal intent has been judicially established. The organization recognizes that genocide requires the particularly demanding element of intent to destroy a protected national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, in whole or in part. Nevertheless, the cumulative historical and contemporary record is sufficiently serious, in HRCBM's assessment, that the possibility of genocidal conduct should be the subject of competent investigation rather than excluded without examination.

This concern carries particular legal significance because **Bangladesh is a State Party to the Rome Statute**, having ratified the Statute on 23 March 2010. Accordingly, subject to the Court's temporal, territorial, subject-matter, and admissibility requirements, qualifying Rome Statute crimes committed on the territory of Bangladesh after the Statute became applicable may fall within the jurisdictional framework of the ICC.

It is within this context that HRCBM has provided information and documentation to the **Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court** and requested international prosecutorial examination of alleged serious crimes affecting Bangladesh's minority communities.

Under Article 15 of the Rome Statute, individuals, groups, and non-governmental organizations may submit information concerning alleged crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court to the Office of the Prosecutor. Such a communication does not itself establish criminal responsibility or automatically commence an ICC investigation. The Office of the Prosecutor independently assesses the information received to determine whether it concerns conduct within the Court's jurisdiction and whether further analysis or action is warranted.

HRCBM therefore respectfully calls upon the Office of the Prosecutor to examine the information previously submitted by HRCBM, together with this report and relevant supplementary evidence, and to assess whether the statutory requirements exist for further action under the Rome Statute.

In particular, HRCBM requests examination of:

- whether there is a reasonable basis to believe that crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court have been committed on the territory of Bangladesh;
- whether particular acts form part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against sections of Bangladesh's religious or ethnic minority civilian population within the meaning of Article 7;
- whether evidence concerning particular actors or courses of conduct warrants investigation of possible genocidal intent under Article 6;
- whether identifiable individuals may bear responsibility under the applicable provisions governing individual criminal responsibility;
- whether Bangladesh's competent authorities are genuinely investigating and prosecuting potential cases involving persons who may bear the greatest responsibility for such crimes; and
- whether the jurisdictional, complementarity, gravity, and other admissibility requirements of the Rome Statute permit further action by the Court.

HRCBM emphasizes that its request for ICC examination is **not based solely on the fact that its domestic litigation has remained unresolved**. Rather, the prolonged absence of substantive resolution in proceedings pursued since 2006 forms part of a broader factual context that includes continuing allegations of severe violations, recurring impunity, inadequate accountability, and the apparent absence of a demonstrated national criminal process examining whether interconnected conduct against minority communities may amount to crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

The fact that HRCBM and affected communities have repeatedly sought protection and remedies through domestic institutions is therefore relevant in two respects. First, it demonstrates that international recourse has not been pursued without sustained attempts to obtain domestic protection and accountability. Second, it raises the need to determine whether Bangladesh's national accountability mechanisms are genuinely addressing the **international-crime dimension** of the alleged conduct and the responsibility of those who may be most responsible.

The principle of complementarity should preserve and encourage genuine domestic accountability. It should not operate as a basis for indefinite international inaction where relevant national criminal proceedings concerning potential Rome Statute crimes are absent or, where they exist, may not genuinely address substantially the same persons and conduct.

HRCBM's central legal observation is therefore not that every one of the 824 incidents documented in this report constitutes an international crime. Nor does HRCBM contend that every crime involving a minority victim was necessarily motivated by religious or ethnic identity.

The concern is that **behind and across the individual incidents there may exist a broader and legally significant course of conduct** that can only be properly assessed

through an investigation capable of examining connections among acts, perpetrators, organizational structures, patterns of victim selection, discriminatory objectives, knowledge, policy or organizational involvement where applicable, and individual criminal responsibility.

After nearly two decades of HRCBM's pursuit of domestic judicial remedies, continued documentation of serious violations across successive governments, and recurring concerns regarding accountability and impunity, HRCBM considers that an independent examination by the Office of the Prosecutor is both legally justified and urgently necessary.

The absence of a final judicial determination does not establish that an international crime has occurred. But neither should prolonged domestic inaction, unresolved structural litigation, and the continued recurrence of potentially qualifying conduct be treated as reasons to defer international scrutiny indefinitely. Where the jurisdictional and admissibility requirements of the Rome Statute are satisfied, Bangladesh's status as a State Party provides an existing legal framework for the investigation and accountability of individuals responsible for the gravest crimes of international concern.

HRCBM therefore calls upon the Office of the Prosecutor to exercise its independent mandate under the Rome Statute to assess the evidence presented, the cumulative pattern documented, the existence and genuineness of relevant domestic proceedings, and whether the requirements for further prosecutorial action are met. The purpose of such examination should be to determine—through evidence and law—whether the continuing situation affecting Bangladesh's religious and ethnic minorities engages international criminal responsibility and whether the principle of complementarity permits or requires further action within the ICC framework.

6.3 State Responsibility: Duty to Protect & Impunity

The state has a duty to protect all citizens equally, including minorities who face heightened vulnerability due to religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, social status, or geographic isolation. When minority communities repeatedly face violence, sexual abuse, land grabbing, religious desecration, intimidation, and unresolved disappearances, the state’s responsibility is not limited to responding after harm occurs. It must also prevent foreseeable violations, protect victims and witnesses, ensure impartial investigation, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Impunity becomes structural when victims and families repeatedly experience delayed response, weak investigation, lack of arrests, pressure to compromise, threats after filing complaints, or prolonged judicial inaction. HRCBM’s long-term experience, including litigation and advocacy since 2006, indicates that minority-related cases often face serious barriers in domestic accountability channels. This report therefore treats impunity not only as a case-level concern, but as a structural driver of recurring persecution.

The incidents documented in this report require more than routine case processing. They require transparent investigation, judicial oversight, victim and witness protection, independent monitoring, and public accountability mechanisms capable of restoring confidence among minority communities.

7.0 Recommendations

The findings of this report demonstrate a sustained pattern of violence, religious persecution, sexual and gender-based vulnerability, land dispossession, intimidation, suspicious deaths, and institutional protection failures affecting minority communities in Bangladesh. These conditions are not adequately addressed through isolated case-by-case response alone. They require coordinated legal, administrative, judicial, and international engagement.

Accordingly, the following recommendations are structured by responsible stakeholder groups to ensure clarity of obligation, accountability of implementation, and measurable impact. They are designed to strengthen the rule of law, restore public trust in state institutions, protect vulnerable populations, and prevent the recurrence of violence. Each set of recommendations reflects the urgency of the documented human-rights violations and the necessity of immediate, concrete action.

7.1 Government of Bangladesh

- Establish an independent national inquiry into documented violence and persecution affecting religious, ethnic, and Indigenous minorities during the January–June 2026 reporting period.
- Create a centralized minority-rights incident monitoring mechanism covering killings, suspicious deaths, sexual violence, abduction, temple attacks, land grabbing, arson, looting, extortion, and intimidation.
- Ensure immediate protection for high-risk victims, witnesses, families, religious institutions, and minority-populated localities.
- Establish special administrative monitoring for minority land and property disputes, particularly where there are allegations of forged documents, intimidation, forced occupation, or court-order violations.
- Provide survivor-centered medical, psychosocial, legal, and rehabilitation support for victims of sexual violence, abduction, and coercive marriage or conversion-related cases.
- Ensure protection of temples, cremation grounds, religious festivals, and sacred community properties.
- Create district-level early-warning mechanisms for rumor-driven violence, election-related intimidation, and attacks on minority communities.

7.2 Police & Prosecutorial Services

- Ensure prompt registration of complaints and FIRs in cognizable offences involving minority victims.
- Establish specialized investigation teams for minority-related crimes, including sexual violence, abduction, land grabbing, temple attacks, and suspicious deaths.
- Require time-bound investigation plans for serious cases and periodic updates to victims' families.
- Create victim and witness protection protocols in cases involving threats, land disputes, sexual violence, political intimidation, or communal pressure.
- Track arrest status, charge-sheet submission, prosecution progress, and case outcomes through a centralized database.
- Ensure gender-sensitive and child-sensitive handling of cases involving minor girls, sexual violence survivors, missing students, and persons with disabilities.
- Preserve CCTV footage, digital evidence, forensic records, medical evidence, and witness statements in accordance with evidentiary standards.

7.3 Judiciary & NHRC

- Prioritize judicial review of cases involving minority victims, especially where allegations include sexual violence, abduction, land grabbing, suspicious death, temple attack, or official inaction.
- Establish judicial monitoring for cases where court orders are allegedly ignored in land-related disputes.
- Strengthen NHRC oversight of minority-related violence and publish periodic public updates on case status, institutional response, and accountability outcomes.
- Ensure child-protection review in cases involving alleged abduction, forged birth certificates, coercive marriage, or conversion-related concerns.
- Create a public accountability dashboard tracking serious minority-related cases, including FIR status, investigation progress, arrests, charge sheets, and trial outcomes.

7.4 International Actors (UN, EU, US State, UK FCDO, Commonwealth and Diplomatic Missions)

- Engage the Government of Bangladesh through formal diplomatic channels regarding the documented pattern of minority persecution and institutional response failures.
- Request transparent investigation and public reporting on serious cases, including sexual violence, abduction, suspicious deaths, religious attacks, land grabbing, and Indigenous community attacks.

- Support independent forensic, legal, and human-rights documentation capacity.
- Encourage Bangladesh to strengthen victim and witness protection, child-protection mechanisms, and minority land-rights safeguards.
- Support civil-society documentation, legal aid, survivor support, and community early-warning systems.
- Consider targeted accountability measures, conditionality, or public reporting where credible evidence demonstrates persistent impunity, official negligence, or failure to protect vulnerable communities.

7.5 Media & Digital Platforms

- Establish rapid-response mechanisms to counter rumor-driven violence, hate speech, and incitement targeting minority communities.
- Strengthen platform moderation of content that incites religious hatred, sexualized threats, forced displacement, or mob violence.
- Support responsible reporting standards that protect survivors of sexual violence, minors, and vulnerable witnesses.
- Develop partnerships with civil-society monitors to identify disinformation campaigns and prevent escalation into real-world violence.

7.6 Transitional Justice & Accountability Pathway (HRCBM Framework)

To ensure durable prevention and non-recurrence, HRCBM proposes a transitional justice and accountability framework as a civil-society resource aligned with international standards and designed to complement criminal justice processes. The framework is victim-centered and seeks to address both individual perpetrators and the systemic conditions—impunity, investigative failure, institutional discrimination, land insecurity, gender-based vulnerability, and religious persecution—that allow violence against minorities to persist.

HRCBM's framework is structured around five mutually reinforcing pillars:

1. **Truth and Documentation**
   Standardized case registries, evidence preservation, victim testimony, photographic records, medical documentation, police records, and digital archiving.
2. **Accountability**
   Independent investigations, prosecutorial capacity-building, judicial monitoring, forensic review, and witness protection.
3. **Reparations and Rehabilitation**
   Medical care, psychosocial support, livelihood stabilization, legal aid, relocation

assistance where necessary, and restoration of damaged religious or community property.

4. **Institutional Reform**
   Mandatory complaint registration, timely investigation, oversight of law-enforcement conduct, specialized minority-protection units, and safeguards against political or local influence.
5. **Guarantees of Non-Recurrence**
   Early-warning systems, protection protocols for religious festivals and minority areas, land-dispute monitoring, anti-hate-speech response, civic education, and public reporting.

HRCBM invites the Government of Bangladesh, the National Human Rights Commission, international partners, diplomatic missions, and UN mechanisms to engage with this framework through a transparent, time-bound implementation roadmap with measurable indicators, independent monitoring, and periodic public reporting.

8.0 HRCBM Actions & Contact Channel

The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) operates as a documentation, legal advocacy, and accountability-focused civil society organization. HRCBM does not provide direct emergency responses to victims. Its core functions include independent documentation of human-rights violations, legal case development, strategic advocacy, and coordination with partner organizations that deliver humanitarian and financial assistance.

8.1 Actions Undertaken by HRCBM

Since the onset of the documented violence, HRCBM has undertaken the following actions:

- **Case Documentation & Evidence Preservation**
  Collection of victim testimonies, photographic evidence, medical records, police documentation, and witness statements; development of standardized case files and master registries.
- **Legal Assistance & Case Support**
  Support to victims' families in filing FIRs, monitoring investigations, pursuing judicial remedies, and engaging oversight bodies including the NHRC and relevant UN mechanisms.
- **Advocacy & International Engagement**
  Submissions to UN Special Procedures, diplomatic missions, and international human-rights institutions; ongoing briefings to media and civil society networks.

- **Referral & Partner Coordination**
  HRCBM refers victims and families to vetted humanitarian and social-service partner organizations for financial assistance, psychosocial support, medical aid, and emergency relief.
- **Monitoring of Investigations & Accountability**
  Tracking of police responses, prosecutorial progress, and judicial proceedings; publication of periodic accountability assessments.

8.2 Victim Support Pathway

HRCBM's victim-support model is based on **legal empowerment and referral coordination**:

1. **Intake & Documentation** – secure case intake and evidence verification
2. **Legal Pathway Activation** – FIR filing support, court engagement, oversight mechanisms
3. **Partner Referral** – connection to humanitarian partners for financial, medical, and psychosocial assistance
4. **Follow-up & Monitoring** – continuous case tracking and protection advocacy

8.3 Safe Reporting & Witness Contact Channel

HRCBM maintains secure reporting channels for victims, families, witnesses, and community observers:

- Confidential case intake (encrypted digital submission)
- Secure document transmission
- Witness protection coordination with partner legal organizations
- Periodic status updates to complainants

All sensitive information is handled under strict confidentiality and data-protection protocols.

9.0 References and Source Documentation

This report is based on a combination of **primary documentation collected or obtained by the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM), official records, victim and witness testimony, field verification, photographic and video evidence, legal and administrative documents, and corroborating open-source materials**. HRCBM has sought to distinguish between information directly documented through its own investigations and information derived from external public sources.

Because this report examines **824 documented incidents**, it is not practicable to reproduce every underlying document, media article, photograph, video, police record, or witness statement within the printed report. Each incident included in the HRCBM registry is, however, linked to its available supporting source material through the organization's internal documentation and evidence-management system.

Where disclosure of primary evidence could expose victims, survivors, witnesses, family members, minors, or human-rights defenders to retaliation, stigma, or other security risks, the underlying material is retained confidentially by HRCBM and is not publicly reproduced.

9.1 HRCBM Primary Documentation and Evidentiary Sources

The principal evidentiary foundation of this report consists of the following:

1. **HRCBM January–June 2026 National Incident Registry**, containing the reconciled and normalized dataset of 824 documented incidents across 63 districts and all eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh.
2. **HRCBM January–April 2026 incident documentation**, including district-level case records, field reports, incident summaries, victim information, and available supporting evidence.
3. **HRCBM May–June 2026 incident documentation**, including subsequent field reports, victim and family accounts, local verification, photographic and video evidence, and media corroboration.
4. **HRCBM field-observer and district-coordinator reports**, including information obtained through local investigation, site visits, interviews, community verification, and communication with relevant authorities.
5. **Direct testimony from victims, survivors, and affected families**, including in-person statements, telephone interviews, recorded video testimony, written complaints, and subsequent case follow-up conducted by HRCBM.
6. **Witness and community testimony**, including statements from neighbors, religious leaders, journalists, community representatives, human-rights defenders, and other persons with direct knowledge of documented incidents.
7. **Police and law-enforcement documentation**, where available, including First Information Reports (FIRs), General Diary (GD) entries, police complaint records, arrest information, police statements, case numbers, and station-level confirmations.
8. **Court and legal documentation**, including petitions, writ proceedings, judicial orders, injunctions, status-quo orders, bail proceedings, case filings, and other legal records reviewed or obtained by HRCBM.
9. **Medical and forensic documentation**, where available, including hospital records, medical-treatment information, injury documentation, post-mortem information, death certificates, and other relevant medical evidence.

10. **Photographic, video, CCTV, and digital evidence**, including material received directly from victims, families, HRCBM field investigators, community sources, journalists, police records, and publicly available media reports.
11. **HRCBM legal-intervention records**, including correspondence with police authorities, district administrations, ministries, the National Human Rights Commission, courts, international institutions, and other accountability mechanisms.
12. **HRCBM international submissions and advocacy records**, including communications submitted or transmitted to United Nations human-rights mechanisms, diplomatic missions, foreign governments, international human-rights institutions, and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.
13. **HRCBM, *116 Minority Killings in 6 Months: Bangladesh's Crisis of Impunity***, documenting killings, suspicious deaths, mob violence, custodial concerns, and accountability failures during the preceding reporting period.
14. **HRCBM, *The Persecution Continues* — January–April 2026 Documentation Report**, together with subsequent May–June 2026 documentation incorporated into the present six-month national report.

9.2 Types of Supporting Evidence

For purposes of HRCBM's documentation and underlying case archive, incidents may be supported by one or more of the following types of evidence:

- **Field Documentation:** Information collected through HRCBM field investigators, district coordinators, site visits, or direct local verification.
- **Victim or Survivor Testimony:** Direct testimony provided by the individual affected by the documented incident.
- **Family Testimony:** Information provided directly by immediate or closely affected family members.
- **Witness Testimony:** Information provided by eyewitnesses or other individuals with direct knowledge of the incident.
- **Police and Law-Enforcement Records:** FIRs, General Diary entries, police complaints, arrest information, case records, official statements, or police confirmation.
- **Court and Legal Records:** Judicial orders, petitions, writs, injunctions, bail proceedings, case filings, and other legal documents.
- **Medical and Forensic Documentation:** Hospital records, injury documentation, post-mortem information, medical reports, or other relevant medical evidence where available.
- **Photographic Evidence:** Photographs documenting victims, injuries, damaged property, religious institutions, incident locations, protests, or other relevant circumstances.

- **Video and CCTV Evidence:** Video recordings, CCTV footage, recorded victim or witness testimony, and audiovisual documentation of incidents or their aftermath.
- **Open-Source Corroboration:** Credible national or local media reporting, official public statements, institutional publications, and other independently accessible information.
- **Community Corroboration:** Verification obtained through local community members, religious institutions, journalists, human-rights defenders, civil-society representatives, or other credible local sources.

An individual incident may be supported by one or several forms of evidence. The nature and availability of supporting documentation vary according to the circumstances of each case, including security conditions, access to affected locations, willingness of victims and witnesses to provide information, institutional cooperation, and the availability of official records.

Where complete corroboration was not reasonably obtainable, HRCBM assessed the credibility, specificity, consistency, and reliability of the available information before determining whether an incident met the minimum threshold for inclusion in the registry. Incidents that did not meet HRCBM's minimum credibility and verification requirements were excluded.

9.3 Bangladesh Constitutional, Legislative, and Official Sources

1. **Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.** ***The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh*****.** Particularly Articles 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 41, and other provisions concerning equality before law, non-discrimination, protection of law, life and personal liberty, protection from cruel or degrading treatment, and freedom of religion.
2. **Government of Bangladesh.** ***The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act No. V of 1898)*****.** Including Sections 154, 156, and 157 concerning information relating to cognizable offences and police powers and responsibilities relating to investigation.
3. **Government of Bangladesh.** ***The Penal Code, 1860*****.** Relevant provisions concerning homicide, physical violence, criminal intimidation, destruction of property, religious offences, and other criminal conduct referenced in individual cases.
4. **Government of Bangladesh.** ***The Evidence Act, 1872*****.** Relevant evidentiary principles concerning documentary, testimonial, and digital evidence.
5. **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).** ***Population and Housing Census 2022*****.**
6. **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).** ***Key Highlights on Population and Housing of Bangladesh, 1974–2022*****.**
7. **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).** ***Population Composition of Bangladesh, 2022*****.**
8. **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).** ***Ethnic Population Structure of Bangladesh, 2022*****.**

9. **Government of Bangladesh and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti. *Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord*, 2 December 1997.**

9.4 International Human-Rights and International Criminal-Law Framework

1. **United Nations. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.**
2. **United Nations. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*, 1966.**
3. **United Nations. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*, 1966.**
4. **United Nations. *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)*, 1965.**
5. **United Nations. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, 1979.**
6. **United Nations. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, 1989.**
7. **United Nations General Assembly. *Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities*, 1992.**
8. **United Nations General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief*, 1981.**
9. **United Nations. *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, 2007.**
10. **United Nations. *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, 1948.**
11. **International Criminal Court. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, 1998, particularly Articles 6 and 7 concerning genocide and crimes against humanity.**

These instruments are used in this report as relevant legal and analytical frameworks. Reference to an international criminal-law provision does **not** constitute a final legal determination that the elements of an international crime have been established in any individual case or across the dataset as a whole.

9.5 Indigenous Peoples and Chittagong Hill Tracts Sources

1. **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). *The Indigenous World 2026: Bangladesh*.**
2. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Strengthening Inclusive Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts*.**
3. ***Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord*, 2 December 1997**, signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti.
4. **United Nations Special Procedures, Joint Allegation Letter BGD 4/2025**, concerning alleged violations affecting Indigenous Peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, including land-related rights and the situation of the Mro community.

5. **United Nations Special Procedures, Joint Allegation Letter BGD 5/2025**, concerning allegations of serious human-rights violations affecting Indigenous Peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
6. **Amnesty International. *Bangladesh: Further Information: Indigenous Detainees Still Jailed Without Trial: Bawm Villagers*, ASA 13/0550/2025, 12 December 2025.**

These materials provide contextual background for the analysis in Section 5.8 and do not substitute for HRCBM's independent documentation of the January–June 2026 incidents.

9.6 Selected External Human-Rights, Institutional, and Statistical Sources

HRCBM consulted publicly available reports, communications, datasets, and monitoring information produced by national and international human-rights organizations, civil-society institutions, United Nations mechanisms, and other credible organizations where relevant to the context or analysis presented in this report.

Sources consulted include, where applicable:

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- United Nations Special Procedures Communications Database;
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);
- Amnesty International;
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS);
- Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF);
- Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK);
- national and local civil-society and human-rights monitoring organizations; and
- other institutional sources cited in connection with particular incidents or thematic analysis.

Inclusion of information from an external organization does not imply that the organization endorses HRCBM's findings or conclusions.

9.7 Media and Open-Source Corroboration

Media reporting was used primarily for **corroboration, chronology, identification of official statements, verification of locations and dates, and comparison of competing accounts**. Media reports were not automatically treated as proof that an allegation had been judicially established.

Sources reviewed during the documentation process included national, regional, and local Bangladeshi news organizations and other credible reporting platforms, including, where relevant:

- Prothom Alo and Prothom Alo English;
- The Daily Star;
- The Business Standard;
- bdnews24.com;
- Dhaka Tribune;
- Jugantor;
- Samakal;
- Ittefaq;
- Barta24;
- Amar Sangbad;
- Desh Deshantor;
- Khobor Protidin;
- local and district-level news organizations; and
- other publicly available sources identified in individual HRCBM case files.

Among specific sources cited in this report are:

1. **Prothom Alo English**, reporting concerning the recovery of multiple bodies from waterways by River Police during May 2026.
2. **The Daily Star**, "43 Bodies a Month Recovered from Rivers This Year," reporting River Police Headquarters data concerning bodies recovered from rivers.
3. **The Daily Star**, reporting concerning the recovery of an unidentified young man's body from the Padma River in Rajshahi and efforts to cross-reference the deceased with missing-person reports.
4. **The Daily Star**, reporting concerning an unidentified body recovered from the Shitalakshya River with injuries raising suspicion of homicide.
5. **Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF)**, human-rights monitoring information concerning unidentified bodies recovered across Bangladesh, as reported in national media.

Incident-specific media articles and open-source materials used in compiling this report are maintained within HRCBM's underlying **Incident Source Register** and evidentiary archive.

9.8 Incident-Level Source Register and Evidentiary Archive

Each incident in the January–June 2026 registry is assigned an HRCBM reference or serial number that enables the organization to trace the incident to available supporting documentation.

Depending upon the case, the underlying documentation may include:

- original news reports and archived web pages;
- victim or family interviews;
- recorded video testimony;
- field-investigation reports;
- police documents;
- FIRs and GD entries;
- court documents and judicial orders;
- medical or hospital records;
- photographs and video footage;
- CCTV material;
- official correspondence;
- social-media material preserved for evidentiary purposes; and
- subsequent HRCBM follow-up documentation.

The full evidentiary archive is **not publicly released in its entirety** because portions contain personally identifiable information, information concerning minors and survivors of sexual violence, confidential witness testimony, unpublished legal documents, contact information, and other sensitive material whose disclosure could expose victims or witnesses to additional harm.

Subject to applicable confidentiality, security, consent, and data-protection requirements, HRCBM may provide relevant supporting documentation to **competent courts, duly constituted investigative authorities, United Nations human-rights mechanisms, international accountability bodies, and other credible institutions** where disclosure is necessary for investigation, protection, accountability, or legal proceedings.

A separate **Public Incident Source Index**, containing non-confidential incident-level citations and publicly accessible corroborating materials, may accompany the digital edition of this report or be updated periodically as additional documentation becomes available.

9.9 Archival and Citation Note

The electronic edition of this report should be preserved through HRCBM's official website and one or more permanent research or archival repositories. Where a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is assigned, the DOI should be used as the preferred permanent citation.

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